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A Class for the study of the GERMAN LANGUAGE, under the instruction of M. Siccamo, is also forming, which Members are entitled to attend on payment of an entrance fee of 5s. W. HERRING, Hon. Sec.

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And others engaged in business, will commence on Friday, January 13th, at half-past Nine o'clock, and meet on Tuesday and Friday Evenings at the same hour, until the completion of the Course.

Terms, for the Course of Sixty Lessons, or 2s. 6d. per Month (8 Lessons).

CLASS No. 22, FOR MALES.

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These engravings will cost the Association a large sum; and every copy will in itself be worth more than the usual Annual Subscription of 10s. Guineas.

It is confidently anticipated, that the various works of Art to be purchased by the Committee will this year surpass in merit and value those of any former year; and they will, as usual, be distributed by lot among the Members at the Annual General Meeting on the 15th of January.

Members' names will continue to be received till April 1843.

Upon application to the Secretary, 63, York-place, Edinburgh, or to any of the Local Honorary Secretaries throughout the Country, reports and information may be obtained, and subscriptions paid.

EXTENSION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ART-UNIONS. THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC UNION OF LONDON.

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In furtherance of one of the main objects of this Union, viz., that of presenting to every subscriber a valuable work of Art, including a Premium of 10s. 6d. in India paper, from £100. 0s. upwards, according to the extent of the list of subscribers, the Committee have been fortunate enough to engage the Members of the Etching Club (some of whom are of the Royal Academy) to produce a work on the same plan, but on a larger scale, and to be completed by the 1st of December. This will consist of thirteen finished etchings on steel plates, printed on India paper, in an ornamental cover, illustrating a Selection from the Songs of Shakespeare, a copy of which thirteen etchings (TO BE READY IN JANUARY NEXT) will, in order of publication, be presented to each subscriber, a little more than one in each month of publication.

In this UNION the whole of the subscribed fund (except the expense of advertisement and correspondence) will be placed by the Committee in the hands of the Artist and Man of Science, for the purpose of being expended in the best manner in the production of works of Art, and in the promotion of the Union, being given gratuitously thus exciting their determination to avoid the grave difficulty of seeking their own pecuniary interest, and preventing the possibility of favouritism by the arrangement that every holder of a prize should be left to make his own selection.

The prizes will be drawn on the 25th of April next, in the presence of a general meeting of subscribers.

Influential residents in the provincial towns, who are to become Honorary Agents, will have the kindness to communicate with the Secretary of the Royal Polytechnic Institution, of whom the Prospectus may be had, and who receives Subscriptions.

309, Regent-street, Dec. 9, 1842.

ASSOCIATION for the PROMOTION of the FINE ARTS in SCOTLAND. Founded in 1833. Committee of Management for the Year 1842-43.

The Right Hon. the Earl of William Murray, Esq. of Henderland.

The Hon. Lord Meadowbank.

The Hon. Sir George Warre.

Sir Gilbert Stirling, Bart.

The Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke.

Professor Wilson.

J. A. Bell, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer.
Sir W. Forbes, J. Hunter & Co. Booksellers.

The object of this Association is to advance the cause of Art in Scotland, by affording additional encouragement to its Professors, in the following way:—A Member becomes a Member for one year, has a chance of gaining a valuable work of Art, and the certainty of receiving a valuable Engraving.

An Annual General Meeting of Members is held in May, for the purpose of electing a Committee of Management, who are to be responsible for the conduct of the Association, and to them the most deserving Works of Scottish Art Annually Exhibited. At this Meeting, likewise, the different Works purchased for the Association become by Lots publicly drawn, the preference given to the members of the Society, etc. etc.

The Association was FIRST ESTABLISHED in the UNITED KINGDOM for the encouragement of Art upon these principles, has increased in its Annual Fund from the sum of 720l., sub-

scribed in the year 1834, to the sum of 6900l., subscribed in the year 1842.

Last year the Works of Art purchased for the Association amounted to 147 in number, at a total expenditure of nearly 4900l. Besides this large sum, which in this form, was distributed among Subscribers, a large amount was reserved, with a view to meet the expenses incurred by the execution of a very talented Engraver.

At one of the recent Annual General Meetings of the Association, the Honourable Lord Jeffreys said:—"That the great aim of the Members of this Society was to advance a taste for Art, and to extend the fame and honour of Art; and he was happy to see that the Society had done much to effect this object."

For the last year, 1841-42, will very shortly receive copies of the Engravings executed by Mr. John Burnett, after Sir William Allan's admirable historical Picture of "Heroism and Humanity," illustrating the life of Robert the Bruce.

An impression from this plate may be seen on application to any of the Local Honorary Secretaries.

These engravings will cost the Association a large sum; and every copy will in itself be worth more than the usual Annual Subscription of 10s. Guineas.

It is confidently anticipated, that the various works of Art to be purchased by the Committee will this year surpass in merit and value those of any former year; and they will, as usual, be distributed by lot among the Members at the Annual General Meeting on the 15th of January.

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Upon application to the Secretary, 63, York-place, Edinburgh, or to any of the Local Honorary Secretaries throughout the Country, reports and information may be obtained, and subscriptions paid.

Edinburgh, November 1842.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1842.

REVIEWS

Recollections of Siberia, in the Years 1840 and 1841. By Charles Herbert Cottrell, Esq. Parker.

NOTHING conduces more to the agreeableness of a book than the happy accordance of its theme with the writer's temper. Humour, in that case, whether good or ill humour, fills up every blank of thought, and the biassed mind speaks out with the frankness of self-satisfaction. Even the iron sceptre of all the Russians appears to the courtier's eye as light and as graceful as the wand of Mercury. Siberia seems the abode of the blessed, and servitude their appropriate condition, to one whose sympathies with the commonality are completely frozen up, and who respects none but those who are clothed in authority. The great charm of Mr. Cottrell's volume lies in his elated spirits, caused by the numerous civilities showered upon him, and by his fervid zeal in repaying the gratification thus afforded him. Whisked along in the train of a governor-general, handed over from governor to governor, from general to general, he jealously asserts the dignity of his quondam associates, and repeats, in a rather peremptory tone, the opinions and statements with which those most impartial and unreserved cosmopolites have been pleased to cram him. Self-love, according to Swift, may be compared to a surtout: and surely our author is endowed in this way with no ordinary surtout; he wraps himself in a thick Russian pelisse; or rather, he is a downright fury animal, with a strong musky scent. In fact, Mr. Cottrell's zeal in defending the Russians from the imputations cast upon them by other travellers (Mr. Bremner, and particularly Capt. Jesse,) carries him much too far; his liberality grows so thoroughly Russian, as totally to change its character. It would have been enough to refute those charges without retorting them; yet retort them he does, with much party heat, little patriotism, and in language savouring strongly of personal asperity.

We do not mean to deny, however, that our author has made a smart and diverting volume. He travelled from Moscow to Irkutsk perhaps,—for we have doubts respecting the furthest limit of his journey,—a distance of 4,000 miles, and back again with some change of road. On so long a route he saw and heard, of course, much that was new; and he has related all that he saw and heard, with something more. After scouring so extensive a field, he has very judiciously confined himself to a moderately-sized volume: had he omitted all his political dissertations and criticisms on Capt. Jesse, his volume would have been still smaller, and a great deal better. Yet, with all its failings, it offers a lively, rattling, and varied narrative, rising at times into the sublime of exquisite pertness; so that, altogether, its triumphant style forcibly reminds us of our friend 'Goldfinch's reiterated exclamation—"That's your sort." We can perceive, in spite of our author's apparently artless volubility, that not above half of his volume is founded on personal observation; he borrows not a little from writers whom he avoids naming. It does not escape our notice that he cites Lucretius for a line which belongs to Juvenal; that he seems ignorant of the necessity of prefixing the negative sign to degrees of temperature below zero, and thus writes 35° when he means —35°; that his conversion of degrees of Réaumur's scale into those of Fahrenheit's is erroneous in the extreme; and that a great variety of little blunders proves clearly that the measure of his acquirements bears no proportion to the confidence with which he decides on all subjects. In his enumeration of the travellers of the present age

who have written on Siberia, he has omitted to name the most important of all, Erman, Ledebour, Meyer, Gebler, Kruhse, and the Baroness von Wrangel. He boasts that, with the exception of two missionaries, he is the only Englishman living who has travelled (halfway) across Siberia. But how does he mean to prove the negative proposition, that no living Englishman has made the journey in question? Is he sure that Mr. Gordon, who, landing at Okhotsk about eight years ago, reached the Baltic overland, is not still living? Or, is he aware, that in the teeth of his vaunt, the President of the Hudson's Bay Company, Sir G. Simpson, has very recently arrived in this country, having crossed the North American continent to the Russian settlements, and afterwards Siberia in its full extent?

The opening scene of Mr. Cottrell's volume unfolds to us, at once, the moral of the whole. Arrived in Moscow, he dispatches in a few lines the Kremlin and other ordinary sights, but the prisoners condemned to Siberian exile and about to set forward on their march, in the beginning of winter, engage his earnest attention. The prejudices of western Europe had disposed him to compassionate those wretches, but a nearer view totally changed his sentiments, and his pity merged in his admiration of the leniency of Russian law. Many of these malefactors, he tells us, are guilty of the most heinous offences, for which, even now, death is the punishment in England; while those, again, who are banished solely for vagabondage (and they form the great majority) are entirely separated from the society of the depraved and vicious. Yes, but they are likewise separated from their kindred and country, and that for an offence which in this country would be expiated by a month's imprisonment. Our author, whose coat of humanity so readily changes colour with climate, is here taken on the horns of a dilemma. Above six thousand exiles, we believe, are annually sent into Siberia from European Russia, the population of which country is about double of that of the British islands. It follows, therefore, that there is either an extraordinary amount of crime in Russia, or else that large numbers are there condemned to exile for misdemeanours and petty offences.

Among the condemned, he saw some persons of a better class, and whom he recognized from their flowing beards as Roskolniks, or people of "the ancient faith." "There are," he tells us, "a great many dissenters of this denomination in Russia, whose principles of doctrine may be in some measure compared to the Puseyites of our own country." He then adds:—

"Within the last few years, the number of schismatics has so much increased, and the mischief they have created become so great, that the Emperor has been obliged to denounce and punish them. From the original Roskolniks have sprung up a variety of dissenters on the most absurd and mischievous grounds. One of them, for instance, has discovered that the name of Jesus should be written with four letters, instead of five, or *vice versa.*"

We are vexed to find that any Englishman of the present day can be so ignorant or unreflecting, as to admire the attempt to repress vagaries of this kind by penal enactments. Would our author transport the Puseyites? Would he plant a colony of Mormons in Australia, and thus perpetuate a creed, which, left to its own merits, would soon be extinguished by the contempt of society? He was struck with the respectable appearance and manners of the unfortunate Roskolniks; "but then," he adds, in elegant and classic terms, worthy of the feeling which inspired him, "they were *aggravated offenders*, who had long been employed as missionaries to gain proselytes to their creed, for which they were now on the point of making a journey to Siberia." When Peter the Great

proscribed beards throughout his dominions, he met with a determined passive resistance from the Roskolniks, who deem it an impiety to shave; the emperor was therefore obliged to be content with taxing beards, and to leave untouched the scruples and the hairs of those who could afford to pay for them. Our author stands up, too, as the advocate of profuse and bushy beards; he thinks them both neat and comfortable, and would, if emperor, spare the chins of his subjects, while shaving clean their consciences. He was introduced to the prisons of Moscow by Dr. Haas, a Roman Catholic physician, whose zeal aimed, among other things, at the conversion of the Jewish prisoners. His proselytes, however, all prove impostors, according to our author, who generally sees very dark shades in the characters of those below him. But to us it appears hardly credible that a Roman Catholic could carry on systematic proselytism in a Russian prison; he would assuredly be soon dispatched to Siberia as an *aggravated offender*. The Doctor distributed testaments among the prisoners, marking out, or prescribing, as we may say, the specific passages calculated to purge the "perilous stuff" of each kind of moral disease. The passages thus selected he showed to visitors, and was not a little disconcerted when an English lady asked him what texts he chose for the Polish exiles.

Between Moscow and the eastern frontier of the Russian empire, our author saw nothing but monotonous plains, crossed by deep miry roads. Having felt some inconvenience from the arrangements of the post, he attacks with much earnestness, and, we dare say, with justice, the general corruption of Russian officers. Every servant of Government in that empire, high as well as low, is ready to accept a bribe. But he does not perceive that this prevalent vice originates with the government itself, which stifles the voice of public opinion. His practical remedy for the evil in question is only available for a Hercules like himself: he says, "The usual plan is to take the law into your own hands and thrash the postmaster till the horses make their appearance, and we consider it a necessary and justifiable mode of proceeding."

The town of Orenburg is still encircled by its ancient Tatar fence, which is a mound of earth sufficiently high to prevent the sudden irruption of light horsemen. It contains many old Tatar habitations, and a large caravanserai, in which the Asiatic merchants deposit their goods on their way to the fair of Nijni Novgorod. Our author says of it,—

"Here the Steppes commence, which extend southward and eastward along the Chinese frontier, and to Bokhara and Turkistan. It seems to be the spot where civilization ends, and where, instead of having a fixed dwelling and settled home, man begins to be a wanderer, without a country, or anything he can call his own, but his steed and his flocks. A small river runs at its feet, close beyond which is a garden belonging to the governor, and a wood containing some fine timber: excepting this, not a vestige of cultivation is to be seen as far as the eye can stretch on the Asiatic side. Here we saw, for the first time, the long lines of camels arriving with their burdens from the East, and vast caravans, composed of sledges drawn by horses and oxen, proceeding towards Europe. But the population of Orenburg is of the most motley and extraordinary description; its Nomade inhabitants are vastly more numerous than the stationary ones, and are composed of Tatars, Kirghis, and Bokharians, who have very little resemblance to each other in language, dress, or features. We use the word Tatars, because they are generally so called when the Mongol tribes are meant to be designated, but the Russians never so call them; they understand by this denomination the whole great Turkish family, from whom so many of the erratic nations derive their origin. Anything so savage and inhuman as the Kirghis in their appearance, cannot well be

imagined. Their ugliness is beyond anything we have seen among Mongols, Calmucks, Yakuts, or any of the Nomade tribes which inhabit the eastern parts of Siberia and the Mongolian deserts. The district over which they roam has not inaptly been called 'No man's land,' in a late periodical, although we think the time is not far distant when it will be absorbed in the vast dominions of their Leviathan neighbour."

Mutton is so cheap at Orenburg, that few beside the Kirghis condescend to eat it. A whole sheep may be bought there for tenpence. The chief articles brought to market by the Kirghis are hides, and particularly the skins of foals prematurely ripped from the mother's womb, and which are much prized for pelisses, on account of their softness and fine appearance. As Orenburg was the point whence the expedition against Khiva took its departure, our author here seizes the opportunity of giving an account of that affair. He justifies, of course, the policy of Russia, and corrects, with a high hand, the misstatements of the London journals, some of which were perhaps invented for the sake of being afterwards corrected. It appears that, on the failure of the expedition, the Emperor applied to the Duke of Wellington for his opinion respecting the manner in which it had been conducted. Our author thus relates the sequel:

"When the failure of the expedition was known at Petersburg, and the general was summoned to give his account of it, it was commonly supposed he would fall into disgrace. It was however, so far from being the case, that General Roccasofski, who was governor of Orenburg in his absence, told us that he had seen the Duke of Wellington's letter to the Emperor, which he forwarded to General Perofski on his return, and on which he had written that it was the greatest eulogium that could be passed on him, inasmuch as he had only failed from impediments, which the Duke had given his opinion were insurmountable. He added, moreover, that the general had done all that a good man and able commander could have effected under the circumstances—he had saved his army; and we know that such an opinion, coming from such a quarter, had the greatest weight in St. Petersburg, and was received with the greatest gratitude by the person most interested in it."

The expedition evidently set forward at the wrong season of the year; but Russian perseverance is not to be subdued by a single failure. A second expedition into the desert is adverted to by our author:—

"We hope we shall not create any alarm by stating, that a few days before we reached Orenburg, another small detachment, composed of two hundred and fifty men, and a couple of pieces of artillery, actually set out in the same direction as the one the year preceding. It was probably to reconnoitre, and perhaps ascertain the practicability of marching through the Steppes in summer. We have never yet seen this stated in any periodical; and it is even perhaps not known yet in Europe, and no new theories have yet been built upon it. At all events, the force is not sufficiently imposing to allow of the supposition, that it is destined for dethroning the Khan of Khiva, or even the invasion of British India."

But it is now time to enter on the desert. The Steppes made a favourable impression on our author's mind: their dreary monotony appeared to him sublime. They are, he says, "the personification of solitude," and they give an idea "of what chaos was;" that is, we presume, before it fell into disorder. The traveller learns that he has entered Siberia from the improved condition of the people—increased comfort and cleanliness appear in all the habitations; in fact, the peasants are no longer serfs. Their dispositions, too, brighten with their prospects:

"Dobell noticed the same difference in his day, and says that he found in the Siberian peasants a sympathy and disinterestedness, that he nowhere else experienced. He mentions having met a carrier conveying goods from Tumen to Tomsk, a distance of fifteen hundred versts, at two roubles and a half the pud, or, after our manner of reckoning, thirty-

six pounds a thousand miles for less than half a crown. On questioning him how he could afford to do it so cheaply, he replied, that the people were so kind and hospitable, that the keep of a man and horse per day was not above fifteen *kopeks*, or about seven farthings. He also mentions the case of a soldier, who had travelled on foot from Petersburg to Siberia, to see his family, who told him that all the money he spent was between Petersburg and Ekaterinburg; that once fairly in Siberia, no one would accept a *kopek* for his food or lodging. We can add our own testimony to the probable truth of these statements, so creditable to the character of the peasantry, and indeed of all classes."

Capt. Cochran's expenses on his whole journey across Siberia did not, we think, exceed a guinea. The history of Siberia appeared to our author more chaotic even than its physical surface. Of the following sentences, the last is undoubtedly a mistake; the others seem designately obscure:—

"The middle parts of West Siberia were not probably the *berceau* of the original colonists of the north of Europe. The Chinese annals relate, that the first symptom of a movement westwards was made from the present territory of the Mandchus, and this was perhaps the beginning of the general emigration of nations from the river Amur to the pillars of Hercules. Certain very ancient and undecipherable characters have been found carved on a rock in Southern Siberia, and the very same on a stone in North America."

Of the modern history of Siberia, the most interesting passage by far is that which relates to the treaty of 1728, when the boundary was fixed between the Russian Empire and the Central Kingdom (China). Westward of the Chinese boundaries, the frontiers of the Russian Empire in Asia are continually advancing. Even our author bears witness to this fact:—

"Siberia lies between $45^{\circ} 30'$ and $77^{\circ} 40'$ north latitude, and 60° and 190° east longitude. Its surface covers an extent of more than five million square miles, but neither this, nor its extreme length can be accurately defined, as the Russian frontier is continually being extended further into the Steppes of the Kirghis, and as we shall show hereafter, to a much greater distance than we have any idea of in Europe. Eastward the Russian dominions have been somewhat curtailed since the seventeenth century. At that period they comprised the vast country watered by the river Amur or Yamur, signifying in the language of the natives the great river. The Amur is one of the largest and most widely-extended streams of that part of Asia. From the conflux of the rivers Argun and Chilka, where it rises, it branches in various directions, during which it receives many tributary streams; and after running a distance of two thousand miles, falls into the Pacific Ocean, opposite the island of Sakhaline. Its source is the point fixed by the treaty made between the Russians, by Count Ssava Wladislavich Ragusinski, and the Chinese, as the boundary of the two empires. It waters the territory of the Mandchus, and towards its extremity that of the Ghilaiks. On its southern banks are some small towns, which are a sort of place of exile for the Chinese."

A handful of Cossacks, in the seventeenth century, conquered the country on the Amur, and received the tribute of furs. They also fortified the little town of Albasyne, about 450 miles beyond Nerchinsk. Kang-Khi, the Emperor of China, determined on dislodging these intruders, sent several expeditions against them, which were, however, constantly defeated:—

"At length a formidable armament of ten thousand men, with guns and a battering train, were dispatched down the Amur, to lay regular siege to the little town, garrisoned by only five hundred men. After a resistance of several months, disease and famine obliged the heroic band to capitulate. Great part of them were sent prisoners to Peking, some of whose descendants still remain there, and have preserved their religion, which served as a pretext to the Russian government to establish a college there, and send a spiritual deputation, who are changed every ten years. It is said, that among the defen-

ders of Albasyne were some of our Scotch countrymen, many of whom at that time, like the present Swiss, sold their services to other nations, and among them to the czars of Russia, who had for a long time a Scotch body-guard."

Soon after this, a peace was concluded between the two empires; but their boundary question was discussed for forty years, till at length, in 1728, commissioners from the two powers (those on the part of China accompanied by a formidable force) met on the banks of the Amur, for the purpose of coming to a definitive arrangement:—

"Fearful that a useless resistance might put their dominions in the neighbourhood of the Baikal in jeopardy, the Russian ambassador made a merit of necessity, and yielded their claim to that which those who know anything about the matter still consider as the pearl of their conquests beyond the Ural. The day may not be far distant when they will repossess themselves of it. The soil is fertile, the climate temperate, and the country sheltered from the north by a chain of very high mountains. The lands cultivated by the original inhabitants of Albasyne still produce corn which grows from the seed which falls annually from the ears, as we were told by an officer who saw it in 1832. The river abounds with fish, and potatoes are said to have been grown in the neighbourhood."

There is a grain or two of truth in the following paragraph:—

"The relative position of Russia and China is wonderfully changed since the beginning of the seventeenth century, and although the former never performed any act of vassalage to the latter she was treated by her, in the numerous articles agreed to in 1727, as her inferior. We doubt not that the lessons we have taught the Chinese at Chusan and Canton will not be thrown away upon the Russians. We observed, in talking of our Chinese expedition with the authorities in those parts, that they seemed to enjoy the idea of our bringing the Brother of the Sun and Moon to his senses, and it struck us there was an *arrivée pensée*. There are people who believe that England and Russia will one day divide the world—*chi sa?* but we, at least, are getting out of our latitude, and must return to Siberia."

The navigation of the Amur, which, under the terms of this treaty, belongs wholly to China, will certainly, sooner or later, be coveted by the Russians. These received permission, as has been stated, to establish a college at Pekin; to which they send a spiritual deputation every ten years. Of the information respecting China, furnished by this college, very little ever meets the public eye. The Emperor Alexander, indeed, allowed the publication of the journals of Timkowsky and of father Hyacinth, who accompanied the mission of 1820. These are both excellent works; the former particularly, with which alone our author appears to have been acquainted, does not deserve the disparaging mention he has made of it. The mission of 1830 differed, in one important particular, from all that had preceded it, being attended by men of science disguised as Cossacks. Their business, of course, was to observe everything, and report the results of their observation. Of these results we have seen only what relates to the barometrical measurement of the Desert of Gobi; the botany of that table-land and of the slope towards Pekin, and a short but pleasing description of the country between this capital and the Great Wall. The Russians in Pekin fill a humble station, far removed apparently from the sphere of politics.

Within the last five years, the seat of the government of Western Siberia has been removed from Tobolsk to Omsk, nearly 300 miles further to the south-east, for the sake, no doubt, of the effect which the vicinity of the chief authority may be expected to have on the vigilance of the officers guarding the frontier. A wish to encourage the trade with Turkestan, may have been also a motive for this change, of which our author offers this singular explanation:—

"The frontier through a friendly fore, as a the whole gained that ob three sacks is ammu... dence, w... from such aw... rive from ravans in versts, as... sees some that, in only end... for some and inhe... to reach... been dis... prisoner... ninety w... from th... probable... a glanc... nearer other re... a trans... matter.

Mr. ... that w... and r... inordin... the ig... take t... will ... southe... ryin... fronti... Then... domin... but ... Turke... ral di... are a... south... also... Arme... but ... and ... into... indu... a ver... but ... the ... Tur... no... bet... obj... othe...

pol... Ko... con... ing... are... qu... sm... me... me... ma... fe...

ni... ve... od... is...

"The distance, as the crow flies, from Omsk to the frontier of Thibet, is twelve hundred versts; through a part of this desert the natives are on friendly terms with the Russians. So soon, therefore, as a permanent settlement is established through the whole distance, immense advantages will be gained to Russian commerce. At this moment this object is accomplished nine hundred versts, or three quarters of the way. A line of Cossacks is permanently formed, provided with guns, ammunition, and all the necessities for a fixed residence, which may be liable to hostile incursions from time to time. The Kirghis, however, stand in such awe of the Cossacks, and the benefits they derive from trading with Russia are such, that the caravans now go as securely the whole nine hundred versts, as in any part of the empire. Every summer sees some fresh point gained; and there is no doubt, that, in a very few years, the Russian dominions will only end where that of Thibet begins. They were, for some time, stopped by a district more desert and inhospitable than the rest, which was supposed to reach to the Thibetan frontier; but it has been discovered from a Cossack, who was three years prisoner in the country, that it only extends about ninety versts, and he described the other side of it as being fertile, well watered, and altogether different from the ordinary Steppes. There will, therefore, probably be no farther obstacle to their progress, and a glance at the map will show that they are much nearer to our Indian frontier here, than by any other road they can take. Once established *as far* as the boundary of Thibet, the Russians will have no great difficulty in obtaining a footing *in it*, and a transit for their merchandise to India would be a matter of course."

Mr. Cottrell personates the Russian so well, that while he lauds the moderation of Russia, and retorts on his own country the charge of inordinate ambition, he at the same time repeats the ignorant gasconade above quoted. If he will take the trouble to look carefully at the map, he will find, that 1200 versts (800 miles) in a southerly direction from Omsk, so far from carrying him into Thibet, will not even reach the frontiers of Chinese Turkestan or of Bokhara. Then how silently does he allow the Cossack dominion to swallow up, not only the Chinese, but also the populous tribes of the Jagatay Turks! He overlooks not only Turkestan, but also the mountain barriers and insuperable natural difficulties between Siberia and Thibet. We are aware that Russian caravans do go as far south as Kokand (1200 versts from Omsk), and also that Russian subjects (Turcomans and Armenians) frequently penetrate into Thibet; but these are all jewellers or dealers in gems and the polished pebbles, which enter so largely into the export trade of Ekaterineburg. These industrious people, carrying a valuable stock in a very small compass, are able to go everywhere; but theirs is the only branch of trade which has the least chance of crossing the mountains of Turkestan. We venture then to pronounce that no caravan will ever march from Omsk to Thibet; though it must not be supposed that we object to the supposition of such a trade on any other ground than its absurdity.

The Russian caravans from Omsk and Semipolatinsk have in view the trade with Tashkend, Kokand, and Bokhara: nor is that all; they contrive also to carry on some contraband dealings with the Chinese. About 1600 lb. of opium are annually imported into China from this quarter, and about 24,000*l.* worth of silver smuggled into Russia in return. It may be worth mentioning, also, that hartshorn is a favourite medicine in China, and that bucks' horns for the manufacture of it, furnished by the Russians, fetch a high price.

Siberian hospitality is not content with furnishing viands to the traveller, it also endeavours to provide him with a good appetite. The odd process by which this is sought to be effected is here described:—

"By way of digesting our luncheon, a ceremony was performed, which, if we had not undergone the ordeal at a friend's house in the vicinity of Oranienbaum, with our lamented friend Prince Butera, would have astonished us no little. A dozen soldiers placed themselves in two files close to each other, and took up each of the party in turn in their arms and tossed them in the air, catching them again on their arms, and throwing them up again, as quickly as possible, a considerable height. This operation is performed very expertly; the patient who understands the business, keeps his arms close to his sides, and his legs stretched stiffly out, and feels no sort of inconvenience. It is exactly like being tossed in a blanket. This is accompanied with singing some of their many pleasing but monotonous national airs, to which the softness of the language gives a harmony they do not intrinsically possess."

Capt. Jesse, it appears, has ventured to say that the Russians are never cheerful but when they are drunk. At this our author is, of course, highly indignant; but while impatiently repelling the charge, he appears to us to lend it confirmation; for all the gaiety which enchanted him appears to have had its origin in Champagne, and is not, therefore, the "*gaieté de cœur*" of which he vaunts so much.

"When the business of tossing was duly completed," he adds, "we started homewards, but at the first peasant's house we came to, we all alighted to drink champagne again, and never did we see so much disposed of in so short a time." Again, he says, "how much we did drink, I should be sorry to say, and nobody would believe us, especially if we added that we reached our abode in a state of consciousness." Such then is the "*gaieté de cœur*" of the Russians. It is probably to their stupidity, so favourable to a hardy vegetable life, that they may attribute their longevity, if what is related on this subject by our author be true:—

"Notwithstanding the severity of the climate, and that the population of Siberia increases but very slowly, if at all, the instances of extraordinary longevity are not at all infrequent. The Bishop of Tomsk told us, that in his diocese, the preceding year, a man had died at the age of a hundred and sixty-two, having a son at the time of his death aged a hundred and ten. We heard of another person then living, of upwards of a hundred and thirty years old, residing at a distance of only sixty versts from Tomsk, but it was too far to go to see such a phenomenon. This longevity is, perhaps, attributable to the abstinence from animal food. In this neighbourhood, where fish is exceedingly abundant and cheap, it is probable that a man of the lower orders might have lived that great number of years without almost tasting meat. But in the Russian statistics there are a number of cases cited of extreme old age; we remember to have read of a man, who, in the time of the Empress Catherine, was sent for to court at the age of a hundred and forty, who had given eighty-six subjects, by five wives, to her Imperial Majesty and her predecessors."

We have lately read of a Hungarian who lived to the age of 173, and in the opinion of an accomplished writer and statistic, this was a well proved case of longevity! It is not, however, by any means, the most remarkable pretension of the kind that we have heard of. When the Baron von Wrangel resided at Sitka, as governor of the Russian possessions, on the north-west coast of America, the place of nurse in his family was filled by a Malay, who, according to his own account, was above three hundred years old!

We have already observed, that Mr. Cottrell's narrative is not all founded on personal experience; he picked up some information from hearsay, and does not disdain to beg a little assistance from the pages of preceding travellers. This is particularly manifest in his account of the country beyond Irkutsk. After describing this town, he adds these words:—

"But we have a long and very bad journey before us to Kiakhta, and as the season is not sufficiently

advanced to cross the Baikal on the ice, a great *détour* must be made by going round it. General Rupert is preparing to set out for Petersburg, and has kindly offered to take us in his suite, and 'here is very little time to spare, as we must get back from Kiakhta before Christmas, or we shall be left behind."

From this, and other passages, the reader will naturally infer that our author went to Kiakhta, on the Mongolian frontier, and that he actually visited Mai-ma-Chin, or the Chinese dépôt. Yet the detail and distinctness, characteristic of information derived from the evidence of the senses, are here totally wanting. The vagueness and hurried tone of this portion of his narrative, the absence from it of what may be called living incident, the circumstance that we can trace all his statements to the pages of Ermann and others, together, with the number of inaccuracies into which he falls, lead us to believe that Mr. Cottrell never went, in fact, beyond Irkutsk.

Here is his description of the Chinese factory: "The Mai-ma-techin is a small rectangularly-built hamlet, having two principal streets, which cross each other at right angles, at the end of each of which is a gate, looking towards the four points of the compass. It is surrounded with a wooden wall, which is its only fortification. The streets are exceedingly narrow, and ill paved, so that two camels can barely pass each other, as at Cairo; but there is a great difference in the height of the houses of the two places. Here they are very small, all of one story, and of wood; the roof mostly of the same material, though the more inferior sort are covered with turf: they have no windows towards the street, and consist of two small rooms, one of which serves for a warehouse and shop, the other for the occupant to live in. On the other side, the windows are composed of oiled paper, painted with different devices, and sometimes of Russian tale. There is in general a great air of cleanliness, and the furniture of the houses is often of a superior description. They are heated with stoves, like the Russian houses, which are needful, small as the apartments are, for the cold is very great, and, in spite of all, they are not well warmed. A great display is made of all the nondescript articles they have for sale in the shop, and in those of the higher class of merchants, there is great order in stowing away their bedding and household furniture, all of which are in one common, sitting, eating, and sleeping room. The number of the inhabitants is about fifteen hundred, all males, no Chinese women being allowed to go there; a few common Mongoloid women are seen about, but not many."

Now Ermann, who undoubtedly visited Mai-ma-Chin, and under favourable circumstances, too, (for he was present at the annual entertainment given by the Chinese to their Russian neighbours,) differs not a little from our author in his description of the place. A wooden fence here marks the line of demarcation between the two empires. In this fence is a wide doorway, adorned with columns, above which are the Russian eagle and the name of the reigning Emperor. "On passing through this door," says the intelligent German, "the change is like enchantment. A more astonishing contrast can hardly be found on the surface of the earth. Instead of the Russian tameness, we see at once the most surprising variety of bright colours, so as to remind one of a German market-place on a Christmas eve. The street is a terrace of beaten clay, swept perfectly clean, and lined on both sides with clay walls, having windows of Chinese paper. The walls are almost hidden with variegated paper lanterns, and with paper flags of various colours, suspended from above, across the street, and bearing inscriptions or mottoes (for signs)," &c. We may here observe, that the Chinese are bound by treaty not to build with stone or wood on this frontier; their houses, therefore, are all of clay. Mr. Cottrell's account of the residents in Mai-ma-Chin, partakes of his affected and contemptuous manner:—

"These celestial merchants are a luxurious set of reprobates, who live remarkably well. When they

give a grand entertainment, it commences with a *déjeuner*, composed of sixty small dishes, and is followed by a dinner of the same number. Each guest is served with a distinct *plat*, presented to him in small ten-cups, which are composed in a great measure of vegetables, and ragouts of every imaginable description, the ingredients of which it is more prudent not to inquire, if one intends to partake of them. One very favourite dish is a soup made of the *sea-worm*, several of which we possess, about two inches long, and an inch broad, perfectly dry and black, in appearance what one might imagine a salted slug to be. These are diluted in hot water, and, being of an elastic nature, they melt into a sort of jelly, or glutinous substance, which, if one could divest oneself of the recollection of its natural form, would not be at all unpalatable."

The account here given of the Chinese grand entertainment is but a very corrupt version of a paragraph in Ermann's agreeable narrative. But this author does not say, that the trepang, or sea-slug, one of the highest priced dainties served at a Chinese table, is capable of melting into a jelly. A fish soluble in water would be a very strange fish indeed. Some Russian wag, we suspect, has palmed a piece of liquorice on our author as a specimen of the *Holothuria fuliginosa*. The trepang, according to the established rule of Chinese cookery, is cut into thin slips, like orange marmalade. Ermann was struck, not only with the affability and politeness of the Chinese, but also with that self-possession and calmness of demeanour which is a mark, as he justly observes, of long-established civilization. Dr. Meyer, who a few years back crossed the Chinese frontier near the sources of the Irtysh, was in like manner surprised at the elegant and polished address of the Chinese officer in command at that solitary outpost. Having now accompanied our author to the furthest limit of his journey, and (as we have already hinted) perhaps a little beyond it, we shall stop for the present to breathe a little, but may return again to his volume to look over the stock of anecdotes which he has collected in so extensive a tour.

Historical and Descriptive Account of Hydraulic Machinery, &c. By Thomas Ewbank. Tilt & Bogue.

The work before us has characteristics which distinguish it both from modern and ancient works on the same subject, and at the same time class it with either. Taking up this single volume, the reader perceives the binding and aspect of a modern book elegantly bound in cloth; on opening it, however, he sees closely-set type, the economical margin, the dense reading of an ancient folio. Imagine one of the tomes of Graevius inserted in a Bramah's press, and compressed in all its dimensions until margins, type, and matter are all reduced to the bulk of an imperial octavo, and you have a tolerable idea of the appearance of this book. It is, indeed, a compressed library. On the subject here treated tomes have been multiplied to an amazing extent. Their essence is given in this volume. In short, it is such a work of labour and original research as we rarely see. It is an acceptable contribution to the literature of mechanical science and practical engineering, a valuable work of reference to those who have not access to the original sources, and a useful epitome to those who have.

The title-page bears the names of London publishers; but a cursory glance at the interior soon raised our suspicions of the genuineness of this London publishing. It purports to be written simply by plain *Thomas Ewbank*,—not F.R.S., not M.I.C.E., not F.S.A.—simple Thomas Ewbank. We searched in vain for the printer's name to guide us to the true origin of the work. But the internal evidences of its authenticity are sufficiently strong;—Thomas Ewbank writes

himself citizen of New York—has made hydraulics a favourite study—has collected a library on the subject—has read a "lifetime" of books and spent a "world of money" and "an ocean of time" in laborious and systematic reading. The produce of all this labour he places at the disposal of those who have similar tastes or pursuits in this acceptable volume. We regret we cannot tell our readers more about the author than the book enables us to glean. We remember to have met the name in the discharge of some useful, practical, or scientific function somewhere before, but where or how we are unable to recollect. But we do not with the less confidence and satisfaction thank the author for his kindly meant, well executed, and very useful book.

Of himself, the author tells us thus much:—That circumstances led him in early life to take an interest in practical hydraulics (perhaps he is an engineer); that he became anxious to obtain an account of all the contrivances employed by different people to raise water, whether for domestic, agricultural, mining, manufacturing, or other purposes; and that his disappointment was great on finding no book containing all the information he sought. This, he says, was thirty or forty years ago, (of course he is from fifty to seventy years old). The want he felt he endeavoured to supply. During these thirty or forty years he has read and collected a great deal from various and voluminous sources. Doubtless he has found in his much reading much rubbish; he has been heaping up knowledge for thirty years, and after much threshing, winnowing, and sifting, has separated the precious grains of wheat from much chaff, and presents the reader with the pabulum of the heterogeneous mass as nutritious food for the rising generation of mechanics and engineers.

In a short introductory paragraph the author modestly states what he has attempted, and still more modestly his views and ambitions of authorship. It is merely justice to a laborious, conscientious, intelligent, and well-read author to say, that he has amply and ably fulfilled the excellent intentions with which he has undertaken the work; and that he disarms criticism equally by the outstanding merit of the work, as by his own retiring modesty:—

"In a work of this kind little that is new can be expected. I have not, however, servilely copied any author, but have written the whole as if little had been written before. I have sought for information wherever I could find it, and with this view have perused more volumes than it would be prudent to name. A few gleanings, which modern writers have passed over, have been picked up; two or three ancient devices have been snatched from oblivion, as the atmospheric sprinkling-pot and the philosophical bellows; and some erroneous opinions have been corrected,—that, for example, respecting the origin of the safety valve. There is little room for the charge of arrogance in claiming this much, since it is all I have to claim; and it is nothing but what a little industry in any one else would have realized. Several devices of my own have also been introduced, which must speak for themselves. On referring to old works that are expensive or of rare occurrence, I have generally quoted the very words of the writers, under the impression that some of these works will not long be met with at all. In tracing the progress of any one of the primitive arts, it is difficult to avoid reference to others. They are all so connected that none can be perfectly isolated. I have, therefore, introduced such notices of inventions and inventors as seemed useful to be known; facts which appeared interesting to the writer as a mechanician, he supposed could not be wholly without interest in the opinion of his brethren. In this I am aware it is easy to be mistaken, for it is a common error to imagine that things which are interesting to ourselves must be equally so to others. As, however, all those devices that contribute to the conveniences of life will ever possess an intrinsic value, the hope is indulged that

the following account of several important ones, although it may present little attraction to general readers, will at least be found useful to those for whom it is especially designed. It certainly is not what I could wish, but it is the best I could produce. I am sensible that it has many imperfections, and there are doubtless many more which have not been perceived. That I have often been diverted from the subjects embraced in the title-page is true; and as the whole was written at long intervals, even of years, a want of order and connexion may be perceived in some parts, and obscurity felt in others. All that I can offer to diminish the severity of criticism, is freely to admit there is much room for it."

There is some necessity to caution those of our readers who are mechanics from expecting it to be exclusively what they may wish to find it, and at least an equal necessity for preventing misconception in those who are not accomplished mechanics, lest they should anticipate a greater degree of repulsive technicality than exists. The book is by no means a repository of practical mechanics for the mere workman. He must not look here for the plans, details, and specifications which may enable him to execute hydraulic machinery, or estimate the cost of works or the effect of engines. As little should the amateur of mechanics be repelled from the book, by fearing that a professed treatise on hydraulics, of about 600 closely-printed large octavo pages, is much too formidable for any but a professed engineer. The title may much mislead both of these opposite readers. The book comprehends only the literature of hydraulics, not its technology. It might have been entitled "Curiosities of Hydrology," or "Anecdotes of Water Works," with perfect propriety. It is full of the gossip of the art; it is just such a book as any amateur of mechanics would allow to lie open on his table, for the purpose of passing the little fragments of his time in occupation of a light and useful description. To have such a book always open for those little fragments of time, which form so large an aggregate by the end of life, is, we may be permitted to add, a salutary expedient for those who consider life too short for all we should learn and do. At the same time, we should do injustice to the solid merits of the book, did we not add, that as it contains general descriptions and illustrative woodcuts of every class of machine which has (so far as we know) ever been used since wells were wanted, or waters required to be raised or obtained in other ways or at other places than just where and when the rains of heaven left them, it is the kind of work which every mechanic or inventor ought often to consult.

The exuberance of matter and the industry of the author may be judged of by the following extract, containing the result of years of research:

"In noticing various hydraulic devices, I have endeavoured to award honour to whomsoever it was due; to say nothing of the ancients, with whom most of them originated, it may here be observed that the Germans were the earliest cultivators of practical hydraulics in modern times. The Dutch (part of that people) contributed to extend a knowledge of their inventions. It was a Dutchman who constructed the famous machinery at Marli; and England was indebted to another for her first water-works at London Bridge. The simplest pump-box or piston known—the inverted cone of leather—is of German origin, and so is the tube pump of Muschenbroek. Hose for fire-engines, both of leather and canvas, was invented by Dutchmen. They carried the chain pump of China to their settlements in India, and also to Europe. Van Braam brought it to the United States. A German invented the air pump; and the first high pressure steam-engine, figured in books, was by another. As regards hydraulic machinery, the Dutch have been to the moderns in some degree what the Egyptians were to the ancients—their teachers. The physical geography of Holland and Egypt necessarily led the inhabitants of both countries to cultivate to the utmost

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extent the art of raising water. Windmills, for draining water off land, first occur (in modern days) in Holland. It is, indeed, the constant employment of this element—wind—that preserves the Dutch from destruction by another; for, as a nation, they are in much the same predicament they formerly put unruly felons in—viz. confining each in a close vault with a pump, and then admitting a stream of water, that required his unceasing efforts to pump out, to prevent himself from drowning. The French have contributed the neatest machine known, the ram of Montgolfier; theirs is the double pump of La Hire, and the frictionless piston of Gosset; La Faye improved the old tympanum of Asia; Papin was one of the authors of the steam-engine, and Le Demont devised the centrifugal pump. Rotary pumps, and the reintroduction of air vessels, rest between Germany and France. Drawn leaden pipes were projected by Dalesme. The English revived the plunger pump and stuffing box of Moreland, and furnished the expanding metallic pistons of Cartwright and Barton, the steam-engines of Worcester and Savery, Newcomen and Watt, the pneumatic apparatus of Brown, and motive engines of Cecil and others. Whitehurst was the first to apply the principle of the ram, and the quicksilver pump was invented by Hawkins. Hales invented the milling of sheet lead, and the first drawn pipes were made by Wilkinson. Switzerland contributed the spiral pump of Wirtz. America has furnished the riveted hose of Sellen and Pennock, the motive machine of Morey, and high-pressure engines of Evans; and both have given numerous modifications of every hydraulic device. The Italians have preserved many ancient devices; and to them the discoveries of Galileo and Torricelli, respecting atmospheric pressure, are due. Porta has given the first figure of a device for raising water by steam, and Venturi's experiments have extended their claims."

The book abounds with the gossip of engineering and the romance of hydraulics. Its indefatigable author seems to have hunted in all sorts of odd corners for interesting materials. The following account of the "Syracusan" would be taken by a modern reader to be a description of the "Great Western," or "Great Britain," or some other Leviathan of the deep in the present century. It is, however, the work of Archimedes, the famous geometer and natural philosopher, and dates before the commencement of the Christian era. She presents refinements in luxury, which opens up a field of further improvement to our modern ship-builders; and we recommend the following paragraph to the notice of the Lords of the Admiralty and the Surveyor of the Navy as a tolerable specification for the building and fitting of Her Majesty's steam yacht which they are about to construct. We regret the extract happens to be silent on the subject of *rolling* and *pitching*,—two elements of some consequence in a pleasure yacht, and elements which have not always entered sufficiently into the construction of Her Majesty's steamers, if all we hear be true.

"Three hundred carpenters were employed in building this vessel, which was completed in one year. The timber for the planks and ribs was obtained partly from Mount Etna and partly from Italy, other materials from Spain, and hemp for cordage from the vicinity of the Rhone. She was everywhere secured with large copper nails (bolts), each of which weighed ten pounds and upwards. At equal distances all round the exterior were statues of Atlas, nine feet in height, supporting the upper decks and triglyphs; besides which the whole outside was adorned with paintings, and environed with ramparts or guards of iron, to prevent an enemy from boarding her. She had three masts: for two of these trees sufficiently large were obtained without much difficulty, but a suitable one for the mainmast was not procured for some time. A swineherd accidentally discovered one growing on the mountains of Brutia. She was launched by a few hands, by means of a helix, or screw machine, invented by Archimedes for the purpose; and it appears that she was sheathed with *sheet* lead. Twelve anchors were on board, four of which were of wood, and eight of iron. Grappling

irons were disposed all round, which, by means of suitable engines, could be thrown into enemies' ships. Upon each side of this vessel were six hundred young men fully armed, and an equal number on the masts and attending the engines for throwing stones. Soldiers (modern marines) were also employed on board, and they were supplied with ammunition—i. e. stones and arrows—by little boys that were below, (the powder monkeys of a modern man of war,) who sent them up in baskets by means of pulleys. She had twenty ranges of oars. Upon a rampart was an engine invented by Archimedes, which could throw arrows and stones of 300 pounds to the distance of a stadium (furlong), besides others for defence, and suspended in chains of brass. She seems to have been what is now called a 'three decker,' for there were three galleries or corridors, from the lowest of which the sailors went down by ladders to the hold. In the middle one were thirty rooms, in each of which were four beds; the floors were paved with small stones of different colours (mosaics), representing scenes from Homer's Iliad. The doors, windows, and ceilings were finished with 'wonderful art,' and embellished with every kind of ornament. The kitchen is mentioned as on this deck, and next to the stern, also, three large rooms for eating. In the third gallery were lodgings for the soldiers, and a gymnasium or place of exercise. There were also gardens in this vessel, in which various plants were arranged with taste, and among them walks proportioned to the magnitude of the ship, and shaded by arbours of ivy and vines, whose roots were in large vessels filled with earth. Adjacent to these was a room named 'the apartment of Venus,' the floor of which was paved with agate and other precious stones; the walls, roof, and windows were of cypress wood, and adorned with vases, statues, paintings, and inlaid with ivory. Another room, the sides and windows of which were of boxwood, contained a library; the ceiling represented the heavens, and on the top or outside was a sun-dial. Another apartment was fitted up for bathing: the water was heated in three large copper cauldrons, and the bathing vessel was made of a single stone of variegated colours; it contained sixty gallons. There were also ten stables placed on both sides of the vessel, together with straw and corn for the horses, and conveniences for the horsemen and their servants. At certain distances pieces of timber projected, upon which were piles of wood, ovens, mills, and other contrivances for the services of life. At the ship's head was a large reservoir of fresh water, formed of plank, and pitched. Near it was a conservatory for fish, lined with sheet lead, and containing salt water. Although the well or hold was extremely deep, one man, Athenæus says, could pump out all the water that leaked into her by a screw pump, which Archimedes adapted to that purpose. There were probably other hydraulic machines on board for the plants, bathing apparatus, and kitchen, &c. The upper decks were supplied with water by pipes of earthenware and of lead, the latter most likely extending from pumps or other engines that raised the liquid; for there is reason to believe that machines analogous to forcing pumps were at that time known."

The following *modern invention* is from a source equally unexpected. It indicates an amount of practical wisdom which we are slow in acquiring. Hundreds of British lives and thousands of British property are annually lost from our wanting this Chinese precaution:—

"There is another device of the Chinese which is worthy of imitation, and considering the increased security it offers to floating property and the additional safety of the lives of navigators, it is surprising that it has not been adopted by Americans and Europeans,—viz. the division of the holds of ships by water-tight partitions. The Chinese divide the holds of their sea vessels into about a dozen distinct compartments with strong plank, and the seams are caulked with a cement composed of lime, oil, and the scrapings of bamboo. This composition renders them impervious to water, and is greatly preferable to pitch, tar, and tallow, since it is said to be incomparable. This division of their vessels seems to have been well experienced, for the practice is universal throughout the empire. Hence it sometimes happens that one merchant has his goods safely conveyed in

one division, while those of another suffer considerable damage from a leak in the compartment in which they were placed. A ship may strike against a rock and yet not sink; for the water entering by the fracture will be confined to the divisions where the injury occurs. To the adoption of a similar plan in European or American merchantmen, beside the opposition of popular prejudice and the increased expense, an objection might arise from the reduction it would occasion in the quantity of freight, and the increased difficulty of stowing bulky articles. It remains to be considered how far these objections ought to prevail against the greater security of the vessel, crew, and cargo. At any rate such objections do not apply to ships of war, in which to carry very heavy burdens is not an object of consideration."

Hand-book for Travellers in Northern Italy.
Murray.

Every copy sold of Mr. Murray's *Continental Hand-books*, becomes a missionary in the work of civilization and in the promotion of good fellowship among nations. With an annual issue of thousands of these *souvenirs*, suggesting and recalling the wonderful, the magnificent, and the beautiful existing throughout Europe, who shall say that the cause of peace is not materially promoted? Each hand-book is a standing memento of its blessings and advantages. Quakers, and all societies who take "Peace" under their especial protection, should have copies on their shelves. Their cause would be thus helped, and their views perhaps enlarged. Already a distinctive badge of an English tourist on the Continent, is the "Red Book;" and the first and best preparation for a trip out of England, is the study of the requisite one among the series of them. Six sections of Europe, besides parts of Asia, are now supplied with these guides. Three others are announced as nearly ready, as well as a *Hand-book for Egypt*.

Until very lately, the preparation of *Guide-books* was regarded as the work of a very low class of *littérateurs*. But the increasing facilities of travel have begotten a demand for works of a better character, and some of the best available talent has been attracted to the production of them,—as in the case of the *Hand-book* the subject of the present notice, and most of the other hand-books of the same publisher. The compilation of a good *guide-book* is not the easiest of tasks, if anything more is attempted than a mere monotonous, parrot-like repetition of what is known, and has been said in a hundred ways. How to hit a fortunate medium between not being over-garrulous, and yet sufficiently suggestive—how, in fact, to lead every one to explore for himself, indicating sufficiently what is worthy to be explored—how to discriminate between the valuable and valueless,—are the aims of a good *guide-book*, which seem rather difficult than otherwise of accomplishment in the best way. The writer should have his eyes open to everything, and will necessarily have to glance at much that he is but superficially acquainted with. It would be difficult to find any one at once qualified to deliver himself in a popular style—a matter of essential importance, and who is equally recondite in science, learned in historic lore, a critic in the arts of painting, sculpture, music, and, above all, in architecture; and who should unite to these qualifications those requisites of a poetical genius, which are well defined by the old Welsh triad, to consist in "an eye that can see nature, a heart that can feel nature, and a resolution that dares follow nature."

Very considerable and varied learning is perhaps the chief characteristic of the present *Hand-book*; and it is brought to bear without pedantry, and in an attractive, familiar style, on a range of subjects by no means narrow. Italy is not merely a land of pictures and song to our

author. Pictures, indeed, he does not neglect; but we doubt if he has much love or knowledge of music. It will be the traveller's own fault if, under the guidance of this Hand-book, he fail to see most that is interesting in architecture, sculpture, and decoration generally. In the department of architecture, our author is particularly copious, noticing all existing specimens—Celtic, Roman, Romanesque, Gothic in all its styles and varieties, revived Roman or Italian, and in all their applications to ecclesiastical, domestic, municipal, and military purposes.

The author's summaries upon other branches of art are not inapplicable for quotation:—

"Sculpture in Italy, offers a vast number of objects of the highest interest, and hitherto, in great measure, unheeded by the general traveller. The names of Michael Angelo, and, perhaps, of Nicolo di Pisa and of Donatello, and the bronze gates of the Baptistry at Florence, are generally celebrated; but, taken as a class of artists, the merit of the Italian sculptors has as yet been scarcely recognised. This has arisen, in great measure, from the circumstance that their works have not become articles of commerce, and thus transported beyond the Alps. They have no European reputation: they are never spoken of with the same emphasis as their contemporaries the painters, whom they fully equalled; and thus they have earned so small a comparative share of reputation, the most uncertain and hazardous of rewards. In the earlier periods, as, for example, in examining the works of the Pisan school, the traveller will be struck with what he has never seen elsewhere, the union of perfect purity of design with the varied and florid elegance of Gothic architecture. From the latter part of the fifteenth century, until the age of Michael Angelo, the monumental sculpture of Italy is quite unrivalled. With few exceptions, the sepulchres of this period are, if judged according to any principle by which such productions can receive approval, most happily conceived. They are true memorials of death, without gloom, and yet solemn; free equally from triviality and from affectation; and, above all, never infected by that spirit of Paganism, which, whether it displays itself in the ornaments and attributes, or in the still more offensive idolatry of the deceased, renders so large a portion of modern tombs unfit for the station which they occupy in places of Divine worship. Of all the more remarkable works of sculpture, we believe that we have given sufficient notices; and the traveller should recollect that of some of the best of the Italian sculptors such few specimens exist, that unless he seizes the opportunity of examining them where they are indicated, he will never meet with them again. Thus, there is scarcely a fragment of Luca della Robbia out of Tuscany; no work of Bambaja is found out of Milan and Pavia; no work of Mino di Fiesole out of Florence and Fiesole; no work of Begarelli out of Parma and Modena. None have been multiplied by casts; few have been engraved, and, when engraved, the representations have been most inadequate. Working in the precious metals was a branch of the sculptor's art, or, as would be better said, trade, for in the earlier periods, at least, they followed it as a craft. Some magnificent specimens, in which enamelled work and jewels are introduced, exist as *pale*, or *pallotti*, altar-tables or coverings. Those of San Marco at Venice, and Sant' Ambrogio at Milan, and the Baptistry at Florence, are amongst the most remarkable. So also is the more modern one in the cathedral of Pistoia. Many specimens of the same nature, together with votive offerings, cups, vessels, and the like, are still preserved in the sacristies of the churches, which the traveller should rarely neglect visiting. They are, in fact, museums of the most instructive class, in consequence of the *certificates of origin* which they possess. Very early and fine specimens of Roman mosaic, that is to say, the mosaic formed by cubes of coloured or gilded glass, will be found at Milan (Sant' Ambrogio and San Lorenzo), Lucca (San Frediano), Pisa (Duomo), Florence (Baptistry and San Miniato), Venice (San Marco and Torcello). The art was continued in practice at Venice till the 16th century, but not so late in Lombardy or in Tuscany. At Novara and Cremona, also, are curious early Christian tessellated pavements. In Tuscany, about the 13th century, a richer fashion

was introduced, employing serpentine, porphyry, and various coloured marbles, as at Lucca (San Frediano), Pisa (Duomo and Baptistry), Florence (Baptistry and San Miniato), which mode of workmanship seems to have been improved into the present beautiful Florentine mosaic of *pietra dura*, or *pietra commessa*. This is composed of the noblest mineral productions, some approaching to the rank of gems, and of the finest marbles, and may be seen in the utmost beauty in the Medicean Chapel (Florence) in the Certosa (Pavia). It is hardly known, that the stained glass of Italy is exceedingly beautiful. In the cathedrals of Lucca, Pisa, and Florence, as well as in some of the churches of the latter city (Santa Maria Novella in particular), it is most brilliant; so also at Milan. In Venice, the colours are not so good. Stained glass, however, does not appear to have become common: we do not recollect any example of it in a parish church or in any civil building, except the Laurenzian library, where only two colours are used, but where the design is very elegant."

The knowledge of Italian paintings in this country is very limited, and has been founded chiefly on the class of pictures which picture-dealers have found it profitable to import. Of early specimens, during the revival of the art, we may be said to know next to nothing. The earliest master known in our National Gallery is Perugino! There is no other public collection in England, except that of Christ Church, Oxford, which makes even the pretence of recognizing the claims of Cimabue and Giotto to an honourable position in the history of art. At Oxford, these names, at least, are to be found on the picture-frames:—

"All the most important specimens, all the *very first rate* masters, are sufficiently admired; but still, as yet, the pictorial riches of Italy are most imperfectly appreciated by strangers. Reputation has been but capriciously transmitted across the Alps, and numerous artists, fully equal, if not superior, to those whose names are familiar to us as the deities of art—are utterly unknown to us Tramontanes. This is particularly the case with the artists of Brescia, Verona, and Cremona, though the remark may be applied to all the other schools, even of Tuscany. But people are often averse from making new acquaintances, and sometimes, also, they dislike to learn new lessons; and hence great proportion of travellers pass through Italy, guided merely by conventional opinions, without caring to bestow the time on examining the works of artists whom they do not previously value: still less to give themselves the trouble of judging them with impartiality."

Of the libraries, the writer thus speaks in general terms:—

"The public and other libraries, and the collections of manuscripts and archives, have been almost wholly unused by English students and scholars. The Gaelic or Irish manuscripts in the Ambrosian Library reproach us for our negligence, and wait, perhaps, for German industry and Prussian munificence. Here are the best texts of the Fathers of the Church, all overlooked by England; and, with one honourable exception (Jacobson's recent Clarendon edition of the *Patres Apostolici*), we are not aware that we have employed any of the most valuable stores which these collections offer for sacred and ecclesiastical literature. Nor have our classical scholars bestowed the least labour upon the codices with which the libraries abound. In another very different branch of inquiry, namely, the history of art, the information afforded by the Italian archives has been sought only to the smallest extent. The books of the *Riformazioni*, as they are called, of the civil magistracy, and other similar records in the archives of the cathedrals, contain the most authentic accounts of the architects, painters, and sculptors employed upon the public or ecclesiastical buildings; and the good use which M. Rumohr has made of the notices thus obtained, shows that this documentary evidence is the real foundation for any true history of art. For Philology in general, and the history of the dialects of the *Vulgare* in particular, the harvest which might be reaped is rotting on the ground. As yet there is no printed copy of Dante which gives the text as it was written in his age. No one has yet

dared to investigate the constitutional history of Florence, of which the records exist in an unbroken series from the 14th century. For literary history, properly so called, the prospect of reward is equally great. The solid masses of correspondence, and other contemporary papers in the Florentine libraries, would, if diligently, and still more if impartially investigated, enable the world, perhaps for the first time, to form a true appreciation of the men by whom the revival of letters was effected, and whose names and opinions have been permitted by the Almighty to exercise so great an influence upon the intellect of mankind."

After all the help which guide-books can afford, the pleasures of foreign travel are in great measure dependent on the intelligence and information which the traveller carries with him. Everything, both in nature and in art, as well as at home as abroad, is pretty much a prize or a blank as we draw it for ourselves. The briefest directory is an ample guide for eyes and ear that can see and hear, whilst the most diffuse instructions may be too brief for the blind and the deaf. Among the world of travellers, and a large world it is becoming, perhaps it would be difficult to determine at present what is an average amount of intelligence. Until this is done, no canons for the compilation of hand-books can safely be laid down. Doubtless Mr. Murray's series will furnish him after a time with some data for doing so. In the meantime we may take it for granted that he has done his best, and has endeavoured to regulate the quantum of information according to what he conceives this average to be. Our author adduces two pertinent instances of the blindness of previous travellers:—

"Eustace says that the Roman name of Novara is 'its only title to attention,' and dismisses Vercelli with the remark, that 'the portico of the cathedral is to be admired.' Miss Sedgwick, following the same road, and hastening from Turin to Milan, finds nothing at Vercelli except bad peaches: and, after 'dawdling' at the inn till she is 'out of patience,' submits herself again to the directions of her *vetturino*, and passes through Novara in utter silence, not even noticing it in her Journal. Now the objects of curiosity at Vercelli and Novara,—besides the splendid views of the Alps in general, and of the Monte Rosa in particular,—are, frescoes by Ferrari, one of the best artists of Lombardy, and other paintings, not only of high merit, but in a state of unaltered purity;—a manuscript, the autograph of St. Eusebius, virtually the earliest existing text of the Gospels, preserved in an untouched medieval library;—specimens of architecture, Roman, Romanesque, Gothic and Italian, either of great beauty and singularity, or connected with the history of England; any one of which would, if taken singly, be sufficient, using the common phrase, to make the fortune of any place in France or England."

The Hand-book is in the form of an itinerary, and it bears internal evidence that by far the greater part of the descriptions have resulted from personal observation. The district of country to which it is applicable is as follows:—From Turin southward to Nice, along the coast of the Gulf of Genoa to Leghorn, north-eastward through Florence to Bologna; due west to Parma; again, north-eastward through Mantua to Venice; and then in a line east and west through Milan to Turin.

If any one will colour the routes followed by the author on the map which accompanies the Hand-book, he will find that there are very few places of any importance which have been omitted in his tours. Some few lying out of the high road there are; and we throw out for consideration, whether, in subsequent editions, it might not be worth directing attention to the cathedral and other ecclesiastical buildings at Crema, near Milan. Alba, on the Tanaro, the Alba Pompeia of the Romans, a municipal city, with a multitude of convents and a cathedral, is not mentioned,—or Bobbio, with its famous convent

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founded by St. Columbanus,—or Valenza, with its fortifications, among the few spared by the French in their campaigns. These seem to be all the places of any size about which we do not find some notice. Whilst on the head of suggestions, it would be convenient that the volume and the map should be made to correspond in their orthography, as they occasionally differ; as for instance, Garezzo in the former, in the latter Garessio, Mondovi and Mandovi, Cussine, Cusine, &c. &c.

It is hardly to be expected that a work like the present should offer much matter suitable for selection. The whole book, however, is readable, and there is more than an average of amusing sketches. Here is one of Bergamo fair:—

"A large proportion of the manufactured goods come from the Tyrol, many from Alsace: and when you look at the brightness of the colours, the elegance of the patterns, and the general goodness and cheapness of the articles, it is impossible for an English traveller to hope that we can ever again command the continental markets. Silken and cotton goods are the staple; but an infinite variety of new objects abound in tempting arrangement or disarrangement; earthenware, bar-iron, and steel tools; hardware, filigree, pins, beads for finery, and beads for devotion; prints, books, songs in Bergamesque; artificial flowers, and toys. To these are added all the usual shows and merriments of a pleasure fair; shows, roundabouts, and *Serraglios* (for they are so called) of wild beasts, lions and tigers howling, whilst the edible beasts also exposed for sale, oxen, and a few sheep, and numerous gaunt, black, high-backed hogs squeaking, grunting, and shrieking most dolefully as their owners display their beauties, add to the uproar. All ranks and orders flock to Bergamo fair. The peasant women in their smart dresses, their heads dressed and adorned with tinsel flowers, beads, and gold and silver pins; the young men usually with a sprig of artificial flowers in the band of their wide-brimmed beavers; the rich in very neat and often elegant carriages, rushing in all directions. The ladies of the higher classes are usually pretty, and their black veils give to their countenances a sprightly and *piquant* character. In the hotels all is bustle and confusion. In the Fenice during fair-time there is a theatre; and, as if that were not enough, there are two or three concerts held in the house, generally prolonging the noise and uproar through the chief of the night. The court-yard is blazing with lights, and filled with parties making merry. And when, in the early morning the temporary cessation of the clatter of knives and forks seduces the weary traveller into the deceitful hope of enjoying a little rest in the heated chamber for which he has paid 24 ruzzangiers (for this is the price charged for a night's disturbance during fair-time), a fresh rush of waiters, the resumption of the clatter, and a louder flourish of fiddles, destroys the fond delusion. But there are some folks who may like all this; and whoever wishes to enjoy Arlechino's 'at home,' should be sure to visit Bergamo during the fair."

Other matters of taste, besides those in painting and sculpture, find mention. Here is a question for the discussion of our fair readers:—

"Amongst the *notabilita* of Pavia must be noticed the ancient costume of the ladies, which is rather declining at Milan. It is a *black* silken veil, thrown over the uncovered head in the same manner as the white veil is used at Genoa. It is a matter of profound inquiry which of the two looks best, and the result of our investigations (after consulting competent authorities) is this; that the *black* gives most enhancement to the bright and sparkling countenance of youth, but that the *white* is equally adapted to the matronly charms of maturer age."

Every branch of the Arts receives some attention.

"The Lodigiano, the country about Lodi, is the native seat of the cheese usually called Parmesan, but which is almost wholly made in this district; the Parmigiani, however, having been the first to export the article, it acquired their name. Others, on the contrary, say, that a Princess of Parma, having introduced it at the French table, it received its denomination from her Excellency, as well as that of the

cheese. The French *gastronomes* maintain that it is with cheese as with wine, namely, that each species has its own *smack*, which cannot be produced elsewhere; resulting partly from natural causes, and partly from the mode of manipulation. But that in cheese, the co-operating causes are much more numerous than in wine: the nature of the soil, the plants upon which the cows feed, the water they drink, the air they breathe, the construction of the cow-house, the quality of the rennet, nay, even the complexion of the dairy-maid, are all efficient causes. To carry on the business of a cheese-dairy to advantage, the milk of at least fifty cows is needed; but the land being very much divided into small holdings, many of the farmers have not a sufficient extent of pasture. They therefore join with their neighbours in a kind of partnership, the milk being brought into a common dairy, where it is kept in very large copper vessels, and the produce divided. The deep yellow colour is given by saffron. The pasture is most rich: when cut for hay, it gives three crops in the year.

Our author's anecdotes are often appropriate, aiding the remembrances of localities.

"San Tomaso in Terra amara; good as to its architecture, and with paintings by Procaccini and Aurelio Luini. It is said to derive its name from one of those acts so characteristic of the tyrants of Italy. The priest of the parish had refused to read the funeral service over one of his poor parishioners, unless his widow would previously pay the fees. The woman burst out in loud lamentations; when Giovanni Visconti, riding by, asked the cause of the disturbance.—'Bury him gratis,' exclaimed he to the priest, who complied; but, like the choristers in the ballad of the Old Woman of Berkeley, repeated the dirge with a quaver of consternation. And, when the service was finished, 'Now,' said Visconti, 'throw him in.' And the miserable priest was buried alive with his parishioner. The story adds that, as they were casting the earth over the priest, he cried out, 'Come questa terra è amara!' from which the church derives its present name. *

"The spirit of the warfare carried on by the French may be best illustrated by two passages in the history of the siege of Brescia,—the escape of Tartaglia, and the Generosity of Bayard. Amongst the crowds who vainly sought refuge in the churches was a poor woman of the lowest class with a child in her arms. The French chivalry cut at mother and child with glee and delight, and the boy received in the arms of his mother, five sabre wounds; his skull was fractured and his upper lip split. In spite of this cruel treatment he lived, yet the wound in his lip was so severe that he never fully recovered his speech, hence he was called Tartaglia or the stammerer; but his memory has been preserved, not by his injuries which he shared with so many others, but by his talent as one of the greatest mathematicians of the age, and perhaps the principal progenitor of modern algebraical science. With respect to Bayard, he was taken to the house belonging to a noble family, whence the cowardly husband had fled to a monastery, leaving his wife and two beautiful unmarried daughters exposed to the brutality of the enemy. When the soldiers who were bearing Bayard, began to break open the door, the lady came to it in terror. Bayard directed that a guard should be placed at the door of his quarters, and that the mansion in which he was thus lodged should be preserved from pillage and violence. During the two months of his slow and painful recovery, he was most carefully and tenderly nursed by the lady and her daughters: no pains, no attention which could alleviate the sufferings of the body or comfort the mind were spared by them, and their characters displayed the utmost feminine tenderness and purity. According to the laws of war which then prevailed, they considered themselves as his prisoners, and when he was about to depart, the mother offered him 2,500 ducats as their ransom; but to her extreme surprise, Bayard actually refused the money! That this act of generosity was infinitely above the common standard of that of the sordid French chivalry, may be easily conceded. The praises which it has earned from all Bayard's biographers sufficiently prove the fact; but how low must that standard have been!"

The bad deeds of the French seldom pass unrecorded in the author's itinerary. "A third

Roman arch at Verona was the Arco de' Gavii, of excellent workmanship, and singularly interesting from its bearing the name of its architect, and that architect being Vitruvius; not, however, the author, but Lucius Vitruvius Cerdio, who is supposed to have been his disciple or apprentice, that is to say, his freedman. 'The Goths had respected this arch,—so had the Lombards,—so had the ancient Franks: the clergy under Pope Gregory—and the feudal soldiers under the Scaligeri,—all had spared it; but the modern French, under him who claimed the crown of Charlemagne, razed it to the ground. For this act there was no other reason assigned, except that the arch stood in the way of the baggage wagons. A few months after this demolition, Eugène Beauharnois directed that the fragments should be built up again!—an order almost as absurd as the previous destruction was Vandalic; but it was never obeyed, and the fragments now lie neglected, a speaking memorial of the genius of the era when the fabric was overthrown."

The following is certainly characteristic of *la grande nation*:—

"The Virgiliana, and the memory of Virgil, offered too tempting an opportunity for the theatrical taste of the French to be neglected; and General Miolis 'invited,' as the phrase was, the Mantuans to concur with their regenerators in a grand commemoration of their bard. A plaster cast of the bust of Virgil was paraded in triumph:—An obelisk surmounted by the 'Cygne Mantouan prenant son essor vers le temple de l'immortalité';—The sad temple of immortality;

—Ditto of Apollo;—The grotto of Dido;—Charon's ferry;—Mount Parnassus;—The Elysian fields—Cottages of Mélibée and Tityre;—and all the gods of Olympus filled the scene, with all the variety and profusion of the groves of Blarney. But inasmuch as the general, like John Gilpin's wife, was of a saving mind, he prudently made use of such properties as he could beg, borrow, or steal (but principally the latter); and St. Ursula enacted Minerva, St. Christopher the Stygian boatman, and so on, as the case might require. The fete was celebrated October 15, 1797. Mantua poured forth all her inhabitants; Virgins (or their representatives) 'en habit de fete'; Magistrates, 'in whose countenances gravity was united to joy'; Academicians, Heroes, Citizens, Fathers of families, on horse and on foot, or embarked upon the waters. The last mentioned portion of the *corlègue* excited most enthusiasm; for, advancing upon the lake to the sound of patriotic airs, 'ce spectacle rappelait les voyages des Argonautes!'; ces promenades d'Amphitrite sur les mers que nous avons lus dans les poëtes, et que nous ne pouvions guère espérer de voir se renouveler sous nos yeux.' When Miolis re-entered Mantua, and the tri-color again waved upon its ramparts, he 'rushed' (as we are told) to revisit the creation of his genius: but, alas! 'ignorance and Vandals' had combined to obliterate it from the face of the earth. The Tyrolese who had been quartered there had broken the marbles, or had sold them for a paltry price; and, that no vestige might remain of the monuments, 'les barbares avaient promené la charrue sur ses ruines, semblable à l'assassin qui enterrer sa victime pour qu'il ne reste aucun vestige du meurtre qu'il a commis.' The 'mance of Virgil,' and the honour of republican taste, required an expiation; but money ran low and enthusiasm had cooled; and Miolis contented himself with suggesting the inauguration of the plaster cast of the bust of Virgil, which took place upon the Piazza del Argine."

Poetry for the Million. By a Member of Parliament. Edited by Peter Priggins. Whittaker & Co.

The title of this trifling bespeaks its purpose of giving a *whack* to an M.P., whose notions of poetry and poetic power excited so much laughter during the last session of Parliament, and whose crusade against copyright honest Peter seems to think amounted to copy wrong. The *subject*, both in the authorial, and in the anatomical sense of that very figurative word, is a fair subject, and lends itself readily to some palpable hits. To those who may have forgotten the transaction, the following account will at once explain the affair, and give a touch of Peter's quality:—

"When called upon to explain my meaning, I read to the House a few specimens of 'd—d fine poetry

—for which large sums had been received, and from which the name of a 'great poet' had been obtained by the author. The House cried 'Shame!' I was assailed with laughter, shouts, and all sorts of noises familiar to the ears of one who speaks to and for **THE MILLION**. I told my assailants that 'any one might make a very respectable poem.' They laughed the louder. 'Why any one might do it,' I screamed. 'Try it,' was the reply of some honourable member in a sneering tone. 'Try it! I have tried it,' was my triumphant answer. No one dared or cared to say 'publish it.' I am, however, resolved to do so—purely for the benefit of **THE MILLION**. I wish not to be paid for my notes with any other note but notoriety. I send them to you to edit them—in preference to other writers of the day—because you are one of **THE MILLION**. If any profits arise from the extended sale such a work must demand—they are yours—if—mind—if you pay all the expenses of printing, publishing, and advertising, and consent to take a certain number of the numbers of my **PROFESSIONAL PROBE** which is published monthly for the benefit of the medical **MILLION**—and myself."

The Poetry for the Million (it follows of course) consists of imitations of the "d—d fine poetry," so flagrantly overpaid. The tissue is too slight to admit of serious remark; and our readers will be better instructed by a specimen or two, than by the most elaborate talk of the critic. We shall commence, at once, with a few stanzas of the ode on Hydro-pathy:

Ye surgeons, physicians, look out,
Who daily prescribe in bad Latin,
Water-doctors you'd better become,
Or there'll be the fire the fat in,
Your grim-looking chariots still keep
To carry a wife or a daughter,
Buy a skiff or a punt for yourselves,
And immediately take to the water.
Sadler's Wells!—clear your pipes and begin
Your frolic aquatics again,
Ope a main from the New River Head
And you're sure to be right in the main.
Your actors and actresses too,
Will ne'er again be out of sort—or
Sick or ill; if you only do this—
Duck them all once a night in the water.
Ye Germans, who'll now drink your wines?
Your Liebtrauernmich, Hock, or Hockheimer,
Asmannshausen, Steinberger, Pisperton,
Markbrunner, or bright Rudelsheimer.
Prond Heidelberg start your great tun,
Use the wine to make lime into morfar,
Sing "Am Rhein, am Rhein" all night long,
But be sure fill the tun with Rhine water.
Ye Hypochondriacs go down
To Malvern—it's not far from Wor'ster,
Stand up to your neck in a pond
The moment you there out of door stir.
While you stand you must swill all the time
By the quart for they give you no quarter,
To get cured you must be like a sponge,
Saturated entirely with water.

The Ingoldsby imitation affords some pleasant humours; but we must confine ourselves to the description of that gentlest of all gentle insipidities, an archery field day:—

Who has not been to see—in some gentleman's grounds,
Where LOUDON has laid out "say two thousand pounds"
In compelling dame Nature to keep within bounds,
And forming plantations in squares or in rounds,
In levelling excrescences—throwing up mounds—
Digging fishponds wherever pure water abounds,
Making shrubberies where nightingale music resounds,
And the greenfinch and linnet completely confounds,
Where nature and art
By turns take a part.

To make nature's theatre gay as a lark,
Like Kensington-gardens or St. James's Park?
Who has not been to see
A "gale compaine"?

Assembled in this kind of land faery,
Where none are admitted but those of degree,
Who are call'd by their *worters* "folks of quality."
Who at least keep a cab with a little funkie
Perch'd up behind, dress'd in top-hats and knee-breeches—a thing you may any day see
If you'll walk, in the season,—but not before three—
Up and down the magnificent street they call Ro-Gent—that's providing you've bought in your ee
(As Scotchmen call ee)

Though I cannot tell why,
Well, these people all meet to play at archerie;
They shoot in the park
Until it's too dark
At the red, white, or bull's-eye to take a true mark;
Then the winners of either sex show no aversion
To receive as a recompence for their exertion
A five shilling bauble—don't doubt my assertion
Or dream that I meditate any perversion
Of truth—they receive little bangles—or arrows
Which are not fit for killing cock-robin or sparrows.

Then at dinner they meet
Where a sort of club treat
Is provided at "three bob a head" for the meat
And the fowls and the tongues, and the salads with beet-root—and lobsters and crayfish and jellies and sweet-meats—such as ladies and gentlemen eat.

Then for drink,
You can't think
How many large glasses of sparkling champagne
Find their way down the aristocratic red lane.
Then as if their "proud stomachs" were not crammed at all
They finish the day with an archery ball.

The newspaper epigrams are too good for the M.P.:
take two specimens:—

Mr. B.—"y the brewer to every one tells
That he's better than Punch, because he *X* sells.

Fanny ask'd her mamma as they came from the ball
Why of lovers young ladies preferred the most tall?
"My dear," says mamma, "without telling a lie then,
'Tis because they're decidedly partial to *Hyphen*."

In conclusion, it may be doubted how far Peter has been wise in giving to his verses the consequence of a printed and bound volume. They would have made an excellent squib for a newspaper or a magazine; but neither coroners nor copyrights have sufficient interest with the public to bear the weight of a more substantial issue.

The Rural and Domestic Life of Germany. By William Howitt.

[Second Notice.]

To return to this book is a pleasant duty; since, in spite of its author's tendency to "spin paragraphs," it contains much that is various and amusing, and something that we do not remember to have seen noted by former travellers. The Old Man of the Brunnen has immortalized the quadrupeds of the valley of the Lahn, and, following in his track, our author has given us a description of the Imperial Wild Boar at Hüttenhof, near Vienna. But he stands up for the cow, without original or prototype, in the following passage, which will go to the heart of many a dairymaid, if the march of mind hath reached Dolly, and converted her into a reader when milking-time is over.

"It is quite repulsive to our English feelings to see the manner in which the cows are worked in this country. An English lady observed to a German one, that of all things she would not like to be a German woman of the common class, or a German cow, for they were both unmercifully worked. The German lady thought it a good answer to say, that she certainly would in this, as in any other country, prefer being a lady to an ordinary woman, and that she should not choose to be a cow at all. The English lady here rejoined, 'but of all cows, not a German cow.' In England, that paradise of countries, the cow is a privileged and most luxurious animal. She lies down in green pastures, and by the still waters, at perfect leisure. In summer, she is half buried in plenty. * * They slowly rove from one portion of their extensive bounds to another, or lie down amid a blaze of golden and purple flowers and greenest grass, pictures of plenty, images and indicators of the farming wealth of England, which nothing can surpass. They stand in company, beneath the shade of drooping willows and polished alders in the glittering passage of the brook at noon tide, in groups rich enough to raise a Cuy or Ruysdael from the dust.

* * Here, for the most brilliant portion of the year, she is shut up in close prison. There are no green meadows, no running streams; no roving in sleep, round-bodied, dappled, and lowing herds for her. She is cooped up in a little dark stall. Old women and young women, and children with creels on their backs, go out with hooks, and cut rough grass and rampant weeds from under bushes in the woods, along the roadsides, and in the corners of fields, for her. Docks, chervil, rough sedge from the river's brink, any thing that is green and eatable, is piled in baskets on old women's heads, and brought home to her. Shut up there, the very smell of aught green is enough to make her devout it. In summer, the lower leaves of the dick-rüben are stripped off for her; lucerne is grown for her, and odds and ends of cabbage, carrots, and turnip leaves fall to her share. She cannot rove in fields, for there are none. She cannot climb the hill-sides, for there climb the vines; and the plains are full of corn, green crops, and tobacco,

without a hedge to keep her from picking and stealing. When she comes out, it is to labour. * * While she lives, this is the lot of the German cow! She has not the satisfaction of her milk flowing in warm and foamy streams into union with that of a score of her fellows, and thence arising piles of rich golden butter, and the splendid masses of Stilton or double Gloucester—such glorious productions as Stilton, Dunlop, or double Gloucester, never enter the region of a German peasant's imagination: on the contrary, her isolated stream goes to furnish only a butter, meagre, pallid and poor, or cheese formed in the palm of the hand, and dried on the outside of the window-sill, more like hens' eggs than anything beside. When she dies, too, miserable cow! she has not even the satisfaction of dying fat!"

Next, without much regard, it must be confessed, to harmony, we come to a scene witnessed by our author in Heidelberg.

A Student's Funeral.

"On the 22nd of July, 1840, I witnessed, in Heidelberg, one of these most singular and striking ceremonies. The deceased was a young man from Hamburg, who died of consumption; and the general esteem in which he was held by his fellow students was testified by the mode in which they celebrated his obsequies. When it is intended to shew more than ordinary respect for a deceased fellow student, his funeral is conducted by torch-light, and all or the greater part of the students attend. * * Bells were tolling from various churches, and the procession was proceeding through the principal street to the lodgings of the deceased, as we went into the city about eight o'clock. We were at too great a distance to see more than a crowd and the torches; but on reaching the house, the scene was singular to an English eye, and deeply interesting. The main part of the procession had halted at the distance of three or four hundred yards, where they had extinguished their torches. Before this house stood a sort of low covered car, or wagon, with six black horses; the four first in German fashion, at a considerable distance from each other, and from the wheelers, and having, as usual, traces of ropes, but in this case black ones. The car, which, unlike our English hearses, was not boarded up top and sides, but appeared merely covered with an awning supported by bows of wood, had laid upon it a plain pall of black velvet, and upon the pall, three garlands of leaves and flowers. The outer garlands seemed to be composed entirely of laurels, and occupied the whole outer portion of the pall, with the exception of a broad margin. Within that was another, which appeared composed of roses and lilies; and then a central one, of flowers also. This inner garland, which was very beautiful, was said to be the work and gift of a female hand. Within it lay his cap, his gloves, and sword. One wondered that the sword should be there, and the books not; and had one inclined to be critical on such an occasion, we should have asked why not as well as the sword, the pipe, the beer-glass, the stick, and the spectacles? The sword, except as denoting the character of the students for duelling, was a singular appendage for a student, but, without being too critical, the whole effect was rich and beautiful. The garlands of laurel and splendid flowers were so dispersed as to cover nearly the whole surface of the pall with a mass of rich and mosaic beauty, which was made visible to the crowd of spectators by a light set upon it as well as by the flare of a cresset-fire, which was burning before the house, on the opposite side of the little street. Behind the car stood two rows of about twenty torch-bearers each, but with their torches also extinguished. These men were not students, but hired attendants, probably the boot-cleaners of the students, called by them boot-foxes. Many of them were of considerable age. In this manner stood the car and its attendants before the house for about a quarter of an hour, when the coffin, also richly covered with black velvet, and white ornamental work of silver-plated nails and shields, was put into the car, the light was removed from the top, and the attendants, lighting their torches at the funeral fire in the cresset, communicated light from one to another down the line. The pall-bearers, who were young students from the native town or neighbourhood of the deceased, took their places on each side of the car, dressed in court dresses, with their

swords, and staves of all kinds, and escape, walk mournful style, a man very supercilious, being clothed in the dresses, which These carried walked the main and their usual by two pro * * The main street where, of every spectators, and it is seen both torches, and The whole length that impressive church ne are general an oration service being the main stood at the above the earth, streaming rection of became a flaring the scene the church the music was now going a mar wild troop round and above the and crowd amid the them h out torches ran. The seum, and formed the first, to some arrived diring, round and as they tosseth up and stran figures, a tossing, a the hund while other masses of and again playing is exulting and all the and the scattered formed of red light and sent hung like the han deep sil as they funeral g den and beyond the circ and geni

swords, and wearing white scarfs. The mutes, with staves of black, ornamented with bunches of white crape, walked on each side; but the band struck up a mournful strain, and the procession moved on. The band, a military one, from Mannheim, a full and very superior one, preceded the car, the musicians being clothed also in black. Immediately behind came the chief mourners, young students in full dresses, with white neckcloths, and white gloves. These carried no torches, but on each side of them walked the hired torch-bearers. Then followed the main and almost innumerable train of students, in their usual costume of frock coats and caps, headed by two professors, in their college gowns and caps. ** The procession, taking a circuit, came along the main street for a considerable part of its length, where, of course, a dense crowd was collected, and every window in the upper rooms thronged with spectators. The students were about seven hundred, and it is probable that the greater part followed, for the whole length of the street, as far as it could be seen both ways, was occupied by their two lines of torches, and they continued passing for some time. The whole procession could not be much less in length than half a mile. The effect was singular and impressive. ** The procession passed on to the church near the end of the city, where the students are generally buried, where the clergyman performed the customary service, and then a student pronounced an oration over their departed companion. The service being over, the procession then returned by the main street to the Museum Plaz. ** As we stood at the window of the Museum, we could see above the houses the light in the air over the spot where they were committing his mortal remains to the earth. Anon, the light moved, it became like a streaming lustrous cloud above the roofs in the direction of the High-street. The sound of the music became audible, and presently the first torches came flaring through the darkness, round the corner, from the street into the square.

"Nothing can surpass the strange and wild effect of this scene. The procession, which had gone towards the church slowly, now returned at a quick pace; the music, which had been dolorous and complaining, was now gay and triumphant. The band was playing a martial and resounding air; the students in a wild troop, three abreast, came rushing on, whirling round and round their torches, and shaking them above their heads, like so many wild Bacchanalians, and crowds of boys and young men ran on each side, amid the mingled flare and smoke and gloom, some of them having snatched up fallen and nearly burnt-out torches, and whirling them fiercely about as they ran. The band halted before the door of the Museum, and continued playing while the students formed themselves into a large circle in the square. The first, as he took his place, flung his blazing torch to some distance on the ground, and every one as he arrived did the same. This became the centre of the ring, round which the whole train arranged itself; and as the young men came near its bounds, they tossed up their torches into the air, which came whirling and flaming down from a hundred places into the area of the circle. The scene was most wild and strange. The gathering ring of densely standing figures, all in the Burschen costume; the lights tossing, and spinning, and falling through the air; the hundreds of them lying and blazing on the ground; while others, flying errant, dropped into the thickest masses of the spectators, and were again snatched up, and again sent aloft, and through all this the band playing in a consonant thunder and rending strain of exulting music. * * When the circle was complete, and all the torches had been flung down, the marshals and the police were seen walking about in it. The scattered torches were thrown together, till they formed one blazing heap, which illuminated with its red light the whole walls and windows of the square, and sent up a rolling column of pitchy smoke, that hung like a sable canopy above the crowds. At once, the band ceased playing; there was a pause of deep silence, and then the whole circle of students, as they stood round the flames, burst forth into a funeral song, which, unexpected as it was, and sudden and solemn as was the strain, startled and thrilled beyond description. The deep red light flung upon the circle; the dark groups behind; the marshals and seniors standing with drawn swords; the blazing

pile in the centre, and the sound of the funeral hymn, sung by hundreds of deep and manly voices, like the sound as of the sea itself,—was altogether so wild, so novel, and strange, that it is not to be conceived by those who have not witnessed the like, nor forgotten by those who have. The song was that sung on all such occasions, the hymn for the maintenance of their academical liberty. As it closed, one of the seniors stood forward, and wielded his sword as in defiance. The rest rushed together, and with wild cries clashing their swords above their heads, there was a shout—“Quench the fire!” and the whole of the students at once dispersed. The crowd then closed round it, water was thrown on the flames, the dense black column of smoke changed into a white one, and the whole was over.”

Among the other notable sights observed by Mr. Howitt during his residence in the valley of the Neckar, is that spectacle so strangely exciting to all who behold it for the first time—the breaking up of the ice. We had thought to give his account of it, till we recollect that a twelve-month ago (*Athen.* No. 735) we treated our readers to a yet wilder and more uproarious scene of the same kind, more brilliantly pictured by the lady who wrote from the Baltic. Thus, also, second thoughts have reminded us, that the ascent of the Brocken, adverted to last week, has been recently described. Being resolved, however, to draw once again on our author's pages, we will give his visit to Herrnhut, the original settlement of the Moravians, a spot little troubled by the general run of summer tourists, but which, from Mr. Howitt's predilections for Dissent, must have had particular attractions for him.

"Herrnhut itself is a neat modern-looking little town of about 1100 inhabitants. It is like most German modern towns, built with streets crossing at right angles, and of white houses. In a spacious square stand the Little inn, the Meeting-house, the Single Brethren's house, and other buildings belonging to the community. The Single Sisters' house stands also near, facing the lower end or rather front of the church. Many private families live in their own separate houses. All is extremely neat, clean, and profoundly quiet. Few people are at any time seen going to and fro; and such a thing as a child playing in the street, is not to be seen. In respect to education, they are very strict in their notions and children, like John Wesley, are probably 'taught to fear the rod, and cry softly.' At all events, they are not allowed to play in the street; and you hear so little of them playing anywhere, that you would be quite inclined, did you not meet some under the care of nurses in walks and gardens, to believe there were none; or, as has actually been the case here once, only one child born in the year! A profound silence hovers over the whole place; and it is amazing that so many active persons should go forth to all parts of the world from a centre which seems the very centre of the realms of sleep. They call it themselves, *Life in Stillness*. The whole manner and bearing of the people, are those of such as have nothing to do with the passions and agitations of this world, but are living entirely in preparation for another. A worthy old officer, Major von Aderkas, whom we found here, said smiling, 'I have had a stormy and troubled existence, and longed for a quiet haven, and thank God I have found it, and enjoy it from my soul'; and here I shall end my days with thankfulness. But many come here who at first are struck with the repose of the place, and thinking nothing would be so agreeable as to spend their lives here, they try it, and generally think a month long enough. No, Herrnhut is not the place for those who have not weaned themselves thoroughly from

who have not weaned themselves thoroughly from the world, nor have arrived, through troubles and treacheries, at an abiding weariness of it.' To the Herrnhuters themselves, their daily labour, their religious and social meetings, their prayer and singing hours and the discharge of their duties to the communities, are enjoyments sufficient. Every now and then they have, too, meetings for the reading of the news from their different missionary stations all over the world; and these must be times of great excitement. We went through the brethren and the sister

house, and were much pleased with the quiet and neatness of everything. Three or four persons forming a little company, have one sitting-room where they can also work, and each company has its overseer for the maintenance of order. The men, most of them, work out in the village; the women in the houses, sewing, knitting, and doing other women's work; and there is a room where all the articles made are exposed for sale. The Sisters' house is large and very clean, and has a nice garden. We saw many young girls at various employments, and were told that it required diligent labour for one of them to earn three Prussian dollars, about nine shillings weekly. It was interesting to see in both houses persons who had been into distant and very different parts of the world, into the hottest and the coldest regions, in the missionary cause; and the children of missionaries, who had been born amongst the Caffres, or the Esquimaux. Each community had its common dining-room, where they all dined; but at three different tables, each at a different rate of charge, so as to accommodate all persons. Poverty amongst them is no disgrace, except as the result of indolence or imprudence. Each community had also its prayer-room and assembling-room. Music is much cultivated amongst them; and we observed in every room appropriated to public or private worship an organ or a piano, and in every sitting-room that we entered was a violin, a guitar, or flute. It was amusing to see the sleeping-room of the women, which, like the dining-room, was for general use, and stocked with a whole host of little German beds, each for one person. The women, in their little white muslin caps, had a certain resemblance to Friends, but were distinguished into married and unmarried by the ribbons which tied their caps being of different colours. The young girls had deep red for the unmarried women, pink; the married women blue; and the widows, white or grey. In the Brethren's House is a very excellent collection of stuffed birds, and other objects of natural history, which missionaries from different countries have enriched. Their church very much resembles a Friends' meeting: there are no pews, but plain benches, the men and women, like the Friends, sitting apart. They had a chair and desk for the preacher, and an organ distinguished the place from a meeting house of Friends. Indeed, very different to the Friends, they have an intense love of music, and preach, pray, and sing at stated times and hours. We were admitted to one of their private singing meetings, and were surprised to see the person who presided give out the hymn sitting, and the whole company singing it in the same position. They have, too, their love-feasts, in imitation of the Agape of the early Christians, at which tea and buns are handed round. All who entertain any enmity against each other, are earnestly warned to absent themselves from these meetings till they have rooted the offence from their hearts. At the close of the Holy Communion, each brother renews his pledge of faithfulness to the Lord, and gives his hand upon it to his fellow; the brethren kiss one another, and the sisters also do the same amongst themselves. * * They may contract marriages by mutual agreement, under the approbation of the elders, but they also frequently resort to the lottery to determine them; and nothing is more common than for a missionary to send home, requesting them to choose him a wife, who is thus selected. The damsel on whom the lot falls has the liberty to decline the match if she pleases, but as it is regarded as a clear indication of the will of Providence, it is generally cheerfully acquiesced in, and a young woman will at once prepare herself, on being chosen, to go north or south—to the snowy fields of Labrador, or the burning deserts of Africa. The Herrnhutians declare that scarcely an instance has been known in which these marriages have not been completely happy ones."

Into feelings and institutions how remote from those of our daily experience does such a glimpse as this lead us! Nor is the moral curiosity of the spectacle lessened when we remember the fervid earnestness with which some who have been fledged in these nests of quietism have dwelt on the duplicity and cunning which are the growth of such a system. But "this is philosophy," and we have only on the present

occasion to offer specimens from an agreeable and honest book. Here, then, we will take our leave, recommending Mr. Howitt's volume as a welcome one for the winter family reading-table.

Phineas Quiddie; or, Sheer Industry. By John Poole, Esq. 3 vols. Colburn.

This novel having already appeared in the pages of the *New Monthly Magazine*, we are not called on to introduce it formally to our readers; but we must venture a remark. Mr. Poole has seldom failed, in his various writings, to seize on some point of conduct awaiting correction, some ridicule requiring exposure, or some false pretence that merits unmasking; and, surely the confounding of fraud, baseness, and inhumanity, with "sheer industry," is a strong case in point. A prevailing addiction to speculation in the trading world, tends to the confusion of these opposites, and the low tone of social morality pervading all ranks, secures a triumph to pecuniary success, however achieved; the lash, therefore, is well applied. This straight-forwardness of purpose in Mr. Poole, his powers of observation, and dramatic force of reproduction, give value to all his writings; but, in his present novel, we think he has fallen into an error, which detracts somewhat from its value. He tells his readers, even boastfully, that "it is unromantic, unfashionable, unsafe; and there being already so much of the fine, the fashionable, and the romantic, this may be something in its favour." But Mr. Poole must be aware that the opposite of wrong is not necessarily right; and, as a writer for the stage, he should feel that some lights of moral and intellectual excellence in his characters, is necessary to relieve *le plus beau noir* of even melo-dramatic atrocity. With the exception of Janet Gray, slightly touched, and soon dropped, we find little in Quiddie and his associates to awaken our sympathies; and we must plead guilty to some weariness at the uninterrupted succession of the odious and the contemptible, however ably conceived and graphically or humorously displayed. There is, moreover, a little false sentimentality, and a considerable deviation from human nature in the winding-up of the widow Quiddie's life. It may be very true, that with respect to the frailties of women, the stars are often more in fault than they; and that hopeless poverty may plunge an unframed young woman irretrievably into a wretched career; but it is not less true, that frailty is, almost without exception, the least vice of the permanently frail; and there is nothing in the early life of Miss St. Egremont, to justify the possibility of her possessing either feeling or liberality, such as are given to her gratuitously by the author. Having said thus much, we must admit that the aforesaid vulgarity and wickedness do not transcend the realities of life, but are to be met with every day; while there is throughout the novel a running fire of hits at absurdities in thought and action, quite in the Little Pendleton vein of excellence and vivacity.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Godfrey Malvern; or, the Life of an Author. by Thomas Miller. Volume the first.—This tale has a tone and an individuality which distinguish it from 'The Lion,' and Mrs. Trollope's 'Charles Chesterfield'; though the three stories turn on the same incidents—the trials and difficulties of a youth who is seduced by faery dreams from the quiet of village life to try his fortune in London, as a literary man. Thus Mr. Miller's story may be read with pleasure, even by those who have already been made to think or to laugh by the fortunes of a genius: of course, he has the forms and colours of rustic life more completely under his control than either of his predecessors. Nor is he without rough humour; witness the earlier moves of the love-game between Gregory Gruff and the Widow Clarkson—against some of the later ones we are bound to protest. Then, again, the troubles of those who are compelled to take up their abode in a miserable London lodging-house, are described with a bold and naked truth, recalling, though distantly, those pictures of contemporary Parisian misery—so squalid, yet so riveting—to be found in Balzac's 'Père Goriot.' With regard to the literary career of Godfrey Malvern, the hero, there is too strong a touch of the author of 'The Great Metropolis' in some of the incidents: and we cannot

but think, that in enumerating the temptations to which his hero falls a prey, our author has gone further into details than was demanded by the interest of history. We point out these defects freely, that in the conclusion of his novel, Mr. Miller may question himself a little more strictly than he appears to have done in the first moiety of 'Godfrey Malvern.'

Giuliano de' Medici. A Drama in Five Acts; with other Poems, by Mrs. R. Sandbach.—The Revolt of the Pazzi, at Florence, in the year 1478, as the same is described in Roscoe's 'Life of Lorenzo de' Medici,' has furnished the materials of this drama to the grand-daughter of the historian. The narrative is closely followed; and the incidents themselves, have a dramatic interest, to which we cannot say that the present version of them makes much addition.

Richards's Daily Remembrances.—These very cheap and useful works are prepared so as to suit all classes and circumstances. Men of business cannot do without them; and mere idlers, who take no note of time but by its loss, could not do better than record in one of these *Remembrances* not only what they propose to do, as a help to memory, but what they do; and then they will learn the amount of time wasted, and learn to be more provident for the future. They all contain, in addition to the diary, an almanack, and many useful tables.

Almanacks.—*The British Almanac for 1843.*—*The Companion to the Almanac for 1843.*—The Almanac, in addition to the Calendar, contains, as usual, many useful tables and much miscellaneous information. The *Companion* has papers on the Recent Applications of Electricity to the Arts, the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Classes, the Railways, the New and Old Tariff, Statistics of Crime, Necrological Table, Abstracts of Important Public Acts passed during the last Session, Chronicle of Events, Notices of Architectural Improvements during the past year, and other papers of value or interest.—*The American Almanac for 1843.*—A well compiled and useful work, on the model of the above, treating rather more largely of Celestial Phenomena and Meteorology. Its value, however, rests on the minute information which it contains, not only in relation to the Executive Government of the United States but of each separate State; and the many Statistical Tables of Finance, Trade, &c.—*Gutch's Literary and Scientific Almanac.*—The general arrangement appears to be improved, and some useful tables, &c. have been added.—*Ombrological Almanac.*, by P. Leigh.—*The Meteorological Ephemeris.*—Weather Almanacs—the merit of which we leave to the decision of those skilled in like speculations.—*The Literary and Scientific Almanac.*—A short almanack, which contains a list of the officers, and the days of meeting of the learned and scientific societies.—*The New Sporting Almanack*—has the merit, and a great merit it is, of keeping constantly in mind the class of persons for whose use it is especially designed. It is, as it ought to be, an out-of-door book. A few verses contributed by Sylvanus Swallow are general in their application, and seasonable, and may therefore amuse our readers:—

Christmas Time.

Christmas comes but once a year!
By Jove, it hadn't come twice,
Unless 'twould ruin us outright,
And turn our hearts to lumps of ice.
It's very well for bachelors,
Who get invited there and here;
But us poor housekeepers!—Well, well,
Christmas comes but once a year.
My "books" I've just been poring o'er;
Ledgers and journals, cash books, bills:
(Neglecting matters of this kind)
It's certainly life's worst of ills!
But oh! confound that balance sheet!
It's anything on earth but clear.
That thousand pounds I can't make out—
But Christmas comes but once a year.
The tradesmen's bills come tumbling in;
From Smith, from Brown, from Spriggs, from Leek;
For beef, for bread, for cheese, for beer—
I wish I paid 'em once a week!—
Two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve!—I'm sure
There's upwards of a hundred here;
And all begin, "To bill dell'd!"—
But Christmas comes but once a year.
My boys are just come home from school;
Such ragged rogues were never seen.
There's not an inch of unrent cloth,
I'll swear, among the whole thirteen.
Twice thirteen suits, and hose to match!
And boots, and shirts, and such like gear!
And each lad's grown a foot at least—
But Christmas comes but once a year.

My wife declares she can't go on
(I think my wife is very silly)
Such chilly weather as this is
Without a new set of *Chinchilly*,
A muff and tippet (furs, you know,
Are "at this season" very dear);
But Christmas, Christmas, still's the cry,
Christmas comes but once a year.

The annual ball and concert too
Are coming off; and daughter Sue,
And Kate, and Fan, and Nell, and Jane
Declare they must have dresses new.
"But girls!"—"Yes, yes; we know, we know;
Those lilac frocks! but now, p'r' dear,
There's nothing worn but tartan plaids;
And Christmas comes but once a year."

The servants want new liveries:
The lace, they say, is tarnished quite.

I really do not think it looks
So much amiss—by candle-light.
But wifey says it must be changed,
Or people else will think us "near;"
And neighbour Brown has had new suits,
And Christmas comes but once a year.

Of relatives of every kind—
Nephews and nieces, grandsons, cousins—
They're lots; and tow'rs this time of year
Their billets-doux come in by dozens.
They all expect some costly gift;
"Forget-me-nots" from uncle dear,
"Keepsakes," or "Sporting Almanacks";
But Christmas comes but once a year.

The gentry round are giving coal,
And wifey says we must give too,
Or friends will say (oh! save me from
My friends!) we are not well to do.

Well, well, says I, I'll send the cart.
"The cart!" good graces me, my dear!
Sir Thomas gave a wagon load:
Lawn! Christmas comes but once a year."

The gentry round are giving coal,
And wifey says we must give too,
Or friends will say (oh! save me from
My friends!) we are not well to do.

Well, well, says I, I'll send the cart.
"The cart!" good graces me, my dear!

Sir Thomas gave a wagon load:
Lawn! Christmas comes but once a year."

The Farmer's Almanack contains much useful information, but condensation would greatly improve the calendar.—*The Garden Almanack*, though it might be improved, has merit enough to deserve a good word.—*Pawsey's Ladies' Repository* is an old favourite, because it preserves its old forms and old attractions; it has a local character, and is therefore not without some general interest.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—The GARDENER'S CHRONICLE of this day will contain a full and authentic Report of Dr. Lyon Playfair's important Lecture, 'On the Application of the Principles of Physiology and Chemistry to the Grazing and Fattening of Cattle,' delivered before the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

List of New Books.—Bentham's (Jeremy) Works, Part XXI, royal 8vo. 9s. cl.—*Navy and Military Manual* and English Dictionary, by Capt. Bunn, 12mo. 5s. 6d. cl.—*A Law and General Almanac*, for 1843, 12mo. 1s. svd.—*The School Boy's French Word Book*, by M. H. Du Rheims, 18mo. 1s. svd.—*Wild Flowers Gathered, Original Pieces in Prose and Rhyme*, 32mo. 1s. 6d. cloth, 2s. silk.—*Impressions, Thoughts, and Sketches*, during Two Years in France and Switzerland, by the Author of the "Gladiator," royal 8vo. 3s. svd.—*The Practical Angler*, by Piscator, with six plates, 8vo. 12s. 6d. cl.—*The Great Physician*, by John Gardner, Esq., 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Wilson's (William Carus, M.A.) Sermons*, 3rd edit., 12mo. 6s. cl.—*History of the Church*, by Stebbing, Vol. III., 8vo. 12s. bds.—*Theotokos*, a Sermon, by C. A. Hulbert, M.A., 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.—*Contributions towards the Exposition of the Book of Genesis*, by Robert S. Candish, 12mo. 6s. cl.—*The Covenant, or Conflict of the Church, and other Poems*, 12mo. 5s. cl.—*Caunter's Sermons*, Vol. III., 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Gieseler's Text Book of Ecclesiastical History*, 3 vols. 8vo. 21. 2s.—*Judah's Lion*, by Charlotte Elizabeth, 12mo. 6s. cl.—*Christian Ladies' Magazine*, Vol. XVII., 12mo. 7s. cl.—*Records of Wesleyan Life*, by B. Love, 2nd edit. 12mo. 5s. 6d. cl.—*Letters and Journals of Robert Baldwin*, A.M., edited by David Laing, 3 vols. royal 8vo. 21. 8s. cl.—*Garrison's Bantams Lectures*, 1842, 2 vols. 8vo. 11s. 4s. cl.—*Catena Aurea*, Vol. II. "St. Mark," 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—*Plain Sermons by Contributors to Tracts for the Poor*, Vol. IV., 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.—*Inquiry into the Principles of Human Happiness, and Human Duty*, by George Ramsay, 8vo. 14s. cl.—*Florist's Journal*, 1842, Vol. III., 8vo. 8s. cl.—*Clater's (J.) Every Man his own Cattle Doctor*, 9th edit. 12mo. 6s. cl.—*Poetry for the Million*, edited by Peter Priggins, 12mo. 5s. cl.—*Grimm's Optics*, 2nd ed. 8s. bds.—*Penmanship, Theoretical and Practical*, illustrated and explained by B. J. Foster, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—*Suggestions as to Law Reform*, by James Stewart, Esq., 8vo. 6s. cl.—*Pycroft (Rev. J.) on School Education*, 2nd ed. 12mo. 5s. bds.—*Russia by J. G. Kohl*, 8vo. 11s. cl.—*The Student's Journal*, 11th edit. 12mo. 4s. roan.—*Fireside Harmony, or Domestic Recreations in Part Singing*, by Helen S. Herschell, oblong, 2s. 6d. svd.—*Handy Andy, a Tale of Irish Life*, by Samuel Lover, 8vo. 13s. cl.—*Raper's Navigation*, 2nd edit. 8vo. 18s. bds., 21s. hf-calf.—*The Miser's Daughter*, by W. H. Ainsworth, 2nd edit. 3 vols. post 8vo. 17. 11s. 6d. cl.—*Van Burchell on Fistula*, 6th edit. 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.—*Yea's Operations at Gizeh*, numerous plates and woodcuts, Vol. III., imperial 8vo. 21s. cl.—*Sir Michael Paulet, a Novel*, by E. Pickering, 3 vols. post 8vo. 17. 11s. 6d. cl.—*White's Natural History of Selborne*, new edit. with notes, by Rev. L. Jenyns, M.A., with illustrations, 12mo. 7s. 6d. cl.—*Luther*, a Poem, by Montgomery, new edit. 12mo. 8s. cl.—*Faber's (Rev. W. J.) Styrax Lake, and other Poems*, fc. 7s. 6d. cl.—*Ricciati's Sketches for Rustic Work*, 4to. 16s. hf-bd.—*Wilson's Voyage round Scotland*, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.—*A Dissertation on the Ancient Colossal Figure at Cerné*, by J. Sydenham, 8vo. 5s. cl.—*The Autobiography of Heinrich Stilling*, 2nd edit. royal 8vo. 3s. 6d. svd.—*The Private Diary*, 13th edit. 12mo. 4s. 6d. roan.

*METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for NOVEMBER, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society,
BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.*

1842.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			Dew Point at 9 A.M., deg. Fahr.	Diff. of Wet and Dry Bulb Ther.	External Thermometers.				Rain in inches, Hg 9 a.m.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.		
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.			Fahrenheit.	Self-registering							
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest								
T 1	30.234	30.226	47.0	30.172	30.164	47.8	43	01.7	44.9	51.3	43.2	53.4		SSW	A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudy.		
OW 2	30.140	30.132	47.4	30.096	30.088	48.8	45	01.3	48.3	50.8	43.8	52.6		E	Evening, Light fog.		
T 3	30.000	29.994	46.7	29.950	29.948	47.7	42	02.2	43.3	47.4	42.0	52.0		N	Overcast—haze wind. P.M. Cloudy—it, wind. Ev. Overcast.		
F 4	30.060	30.052	44.8	30.126	30.120	45.0	38	01.8	39.5	38.8	37.8	49.0		NNW	A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light rain and snow. Evening. Cloudy—light fog.		
S 5	30.190	30.182	43.0	30.120	30.112	44.1	37	03.5	42.0	45.4	37.4	43.4	.033	N	A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening—very rain early. P.M. Cloudy—light wind.		
G 6	30.202	30.194	41.8	30.158	30.150	43.0	36	02.2	38.3	42.3	36.7	46.8		N	Cloudy—it, wind throughout the day. Ev. The same, with light fog.		
M 7	30.130	30.122	42.7	30.125	30.120	44.6	39	02.7	42.3	45.6	38.4	43.6		NW	(A.M. Cloudy—wind—slight rain early. P.M. Cloudy—breaks at wind—slight rain. Evening, Light fog.		
T 8	30.152	30.144	43.6	30.078	30.070	44.4	39	02.3	42.3	44.3	40.6	48.2		NW	Cloudy—brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—light fog.		
W 9	29.806	29.798	44.0	29.700	29.692	45.2	37	03.8	43.7	45.5	41.8	45.7		S	Cloudy—high wind throughout the day. Ev. Ovt.—it, rain—h. wind.		
T10 10	29.684	29.676	46.6	29.636	29.628	48.0	45	01.7	48.4	49.7	44.0	49.8	.038	S	Overcast—brisk wind throughout the day—very high wind throughout the day, out the night. Evening. The like.		
F11 11	29.180	29.172	47.2	29.002	28.998	49.4	45	02.8	50.7	51.7	43.2	52.3	.019	S	A.M. Cloudy—high wind—light rain—very high wind throughout the day, out the night. P.M. Ovt.—it, rain—high wind. Ev. Overcast.		
S12 12	29.122	29.116	50.6	29.332	29.326	51.6	48	01.6	51.5	53.8	49.5	55.0	.261	W	A.M. Cloudy—fine—light wind—very high wind throughout the day, out the night. Evening. Cloudy—wind. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
G13 13	29.512	29.506	50.6	29.256	29.248	51.3	47	01.9	50.0	52.3	48.0	55.5	.494	SSE	Overcast—rain—high wind nearly the whole of the day. Ev. The same.		
M14 14	29.720	29.714	50.6	29.804	29.798	51.3	47	02.2	47.7	47.7	46.7	55.0	.266	W	(A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Overcast.		
T15 15	29.656	29.680	48.8	29.618	29.612	48.3	45	00.2	43.3	44.5	43.7	51.6	.625	E	Overcast—rain, with it, wind nearly the whole day. Ev. The same.		
W16 16	29.762	29.754	47.8	29.790	29.782	47.7	43	00.6	44.0	44.3	43.6	47.0	.355	NE	Overcast—high wind, with occasional rain throughout the day.		
T17 17	30.232	30.224	44.0	30.360	30.352	44.6	37	03.5	40.7	43.7	39.2	45.3	.033	NNE	Evening, Fine and starlight.		
F18 18	30.582	30.574	44.2	30.532	30.526	45.0	37	03.7	41.3	43.3	40.2	45.0		E	Overcast—wind throughout the day. Ev. Moonlight—it, clouds.		
S19 19	30.232	30.224	43.3	30.060	30.052	44.7	41	04.0	43.8	47.3	38.4	45.3		S	(A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening.		
G20 20	29.788	29.780	47.2	29.774	29.768	48.0	44	02.4	46.7	47.0	37.8	52.8	.677	N	Fine and moonlight—light clouds. Evening. Overcast—light rain and wind.		
M21 21	29.800	29.794	44.8	29.824	29.816	45.2	38	02.5	40.3	43.7	40.3	49.6		N	Overcast—wind throughout the day. Ev. The same—it, fog.		
T22 22	29.420	29.412	42.9	29.284	29.278	42.7	37	01.2	35.7	37.0	36.4	45.3	.244	SE	Fine—it, clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—R. fog.		
W23 23	29.496	29.488	41.0	29.590	29.584	42.4	37	01.4	38.4	43.7	35.6	39.4	.177	S	(Overcast—light wind, rain, and snow nearly the whole of the day. Evening. Fine and starlight.		
T24 24	28.908	28.900	43.6	28.916	28.908	45.2	40	02.0	43.7	47.0	38.7	46.3	.105	S	(Light rain and wind. Evening. Overcast—light rain and wind.		
F25 25	28.900	28.896	45.0	28.878	28.872	46.0	42	02.5	44.2	46.3	42.8	48.2	.300	S var.	(A.M. Cloudy—light rain—very high wind, as also throughout the night. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening. Overcast—brisk wind.		
S26 26	29.094	29.088	44.5	29.170	29.164	45.6	40	03.2	43.4	47.6	41.3	47.6	.105	SSE	Fine and moonlight throughout the day. Ev. Fine at starlight.		
G27 27	29.366	29.358	44.2	29.314	29.306	45.0	40	01.8	42.7	45.8	40.2	49.0		S	(A.M. Overcast—slight rain and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening. Light fog and rain.		
M28 28	28.944	28.938	46.3	28.892	28.886	48.3	45	02.7	49.3	52.3	43.0	50.8	.222	SE	(A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind—light rain early. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Evening. Fine and starlight.		
T29 29	29.540	29.532	47.0	29.546	29.540	48.0	42	01.9	44.4	48.4	44.2	54.3	.061	SE	(A.M. Light fog and wind nearly the whole of the day. Evening. Overcast—light fog.		
W30 30	29.662	29.654	47.2	29.860	29.852	48.0	44	01.3	46.2	47.3	44.6	51.2	.033	W	(A.M. Light fog—rain early. P.M. Fine—it, clouds. Ev. Light fog.		
MEAN.		29.718	29.711	45.6	29.699	29.692	46.6	41	02.3	44.0	46.5	41.4	49.0	4.048	Sum. Mean Barometer corrected		9 A.M. 3 P.M.
															{ F. 29.676 .. 29.655		
															{ C. 29.668 .. 29.647		

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

OVERLAND JOURNEY OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR JOHN
FRANKLIN, LADY FRANKLIN, AND PARTY, FROM
HOBART TOWN TO MACQUARIE HARBOUR.

The tract here indicated is a blank even in Arrowsmith's Map; any account, therefore, of an exploring excursion would have an interest with our readers; but it is especially pleasant once again to accompany our old Arctic traveller,—to see him lured away from the formalities of Government House by a love of enterprise; proving, as old Chaucer says,—

Yet in our ashen cold is fire yreken;

and accompanied, on this occasion, by his wife, who probably had listened to his tale of dangers passed—"moving accidents by flood and field"—until she herself had become in love with adventure.

"Early on the 2nd of April, every one was astir, reducing baggage, &c., to the least bulky form and lightest marching order. By noon, the Derwent had been crossed, and the route commenced. The day proved to be one of heavenly beauty. The country traversed consisted of flat, open, marshy plains intersected by stony rises and straggling forest belts. The mean course by compass lay south by west. This was the first station, under King William Mount. A lurid sunset heralded a dreary dawn; the skies loured, and copious rain descended: no progress that day. On the 4th, the party again set forward, passing stone rises, and boggy marshes thickly strewn with pebbly quartz. On this day they reached the summit of Fatigue Hill, whence their eyes roamed in delighted contemplation of one of the most superb and most extensive panoramic landscapes which this or any other country can probably produce. But we must descend the mountain, no easy task, being some 1500 feet of sharp declivity. At its foot lies Wombal Glen, the second provision dépôt. Fragments of clothing and portions of a human skeleton demonstrated former hopeless attempts at escape from Macquarie Harbour. During the night of the 4th, the rain fell in torrents, a sufficient gauge giving an inch in eight hours. On the morning of the 5th the first myrtle forest was entered. These forests are all

dense, dark, and unwholesome, penetrable by axes and compass only. The track admitted but one abreast; to deviate was impossible, the traveller being girdled by a living wall. The Surprise River, greatly swollen, was crossed by means of a gigantic myrtle-tree, at a spot where it mingles its waters with a powerful river called the King, but which there is scarcely a doubt, is in truth the Franklin. This day's route was one of alternate forest track and marshy plain, with here and there a limited quantity of indifferent grazing ground. By noon, the Loddon, a considerable tributary of the King, or Franklin, was gained: it was the third provisioning station, and, like all the others, had *no bark huts*, the party invariably encamping under blanket and field tents. A momentary halt, and a slight refection of tea, salt pork, and damper, sufficed for this station. It rained fiercely. The Loddon was crossed in four or five of its bends. The superb but lofty plains which skirt a lofty range of rugged mountains, one of the most prominently striking points of which had been known to surveyors and parties by the appellation of the Frenchman's Cap, were wearily plodded and, after a fourteen miles' tramp, the encampment at Detention Corner took place. A weary, watery *snow-bound* week ensued; tiny rills assumed the consequence of flowing streams—flowing streams swelled rapidly into important rivers—not a dry yard for exercise could be found—fuel was scarce—steps beyond the precincts of the tents, and the spongy ground plashed and bubbled under the tread. An advance, set forward on the 11th, crossed one of the spurs of the Frenchman and Lachlan Plains amidst a storm of hail, snow, and sleet, reaching the banks of the Franklin at an early hour of the following day. The raft prepared by Mr. Calder was found perfectly secure, but the warp which had been made fast across the river (seventy measured yards) had parted in the nip. The stream was prodigiously swollen; the means of communication with the western bank cut off, and it was necessary to await the coming up of the main body to decide what was

to be done. His Excellency and Lady Franklin quitted Detention Corner on the 12th, encamping for the night at Christmas Rock. On the 13th, they traversed the watery marshes of Lachlan Plains, passing the night near New Year's Valley. On the 14th, they encountered all the difficulties and disagreables of the sludge, the tangle, the precipitous ascents and weary descents of a sunless solitude, known by the name of Glow-worm Forest. The encampment of the 14th was at Whitehill Plains. On the 15th, a seven miles' toil through the Black Forest conducted to the banks of the turbulent Franklin. On the morning of the 16th, Maddox, formerly a Thames bargeeman, and Conz, a Bridgewater boatman, volunteered, and crossed in safety upon the raft, opening thereby communication with, and securing the detention of, the *Breeze*, which otherwise had been ordered to sail on the 18th. The Franklin rose rapidly during the absence of these men, and every attempt to get the warp across proved abortive; the weather threatened, rain fell in torrents; and as there existed incontestable evidences that the stream, in its might, rose from twenty to thirty perpendicular feet, promptitude and dispatch were imperative. A double canoe, bolted together, was built and launched. No sooner had this been achieved than the warp was passed, and, on the 20th, the passage of the Franklin happily accomplished. On the 21st, the encampment broke up on its western shore. Here one of the men named Mumford most unhappily lost his eye. He was clearing the track, his foot upon a sapling, which, as it was severed, flew back and burst the eyeball. The journey of the 21st was seven miles, the tents being pitched in a tea-tree rise at the entrance of Gordon Forest, through which another seven miles' tramp, on the 22nd, conducted to Expectation Reach, where the *Breeze* lay moored. The party, for some days previous, had been reduced to rations of three ounces of meat per day, with a small portion of tea and biscuit. On the 23rd, men were sent back for the warp and tackle belonging to the schooner, the Governor and his party ascending (by boat) the

magnificent Gordon, to its point of junction with the Franklin, a distance of fifteen miles. On the 24th, the schooner commenced towing down the river towards Macquarie Harbour; although but fifteen or sixteen miles above Sarah Island, such was the violence of the adverse winds, that it was not until the 27th she was enabled to anchor off the settlement; which the 28th was spent in visiting. Many of the buildings are much dilapidated: the gaol, the bakehouse, and the penitentiary, however, are in tolerable repair. Some miserable potatoes, many not much bigger than pistol bullets, of very bad flavour, the natural consequence of many years' reproduction, were procured; also a few apples. Foul winds and dirty weather kept the anchor unmoved on the 29th; but at 6 A.M. of the 30th, profiting by a calm, the *Breeze* got under weigh, and was towed down the extensive harbour. Towards evening she got entangled with the flats, ultimately bringing up in two fathoms. The 1st of May was spent in the endeavour to get over the flats—the 2nd in a like fruitless attempt; but on the 3rd a momentary flaw of wind wafted the *Breeze* to an anchorage in Mosquito Cove, under Wellington Head, seventeen miles from the deserted settlement, and three from the nearly impracticable bar. The gales raged during the next fortnight, and it was utterly impossible to start tack or sheet. Provisions ran very low, few fish were caught, and parrots, gulls, and sharks, were delicacies full as "rich" as they unquestionably were "rare." On the 15th, taking advantage of a shift of the wind, the schooner unmoored before daylight, and dawn was faintly tinged the horizon when, swept along by an ebb tide that drove her some ten knots an hour, the *Breeze* hurried through the gulf, shaving the rocks that jut from the main land off Entrance Island, within three feet. Having but a light wind, the vessel was under no command; therefore, as the sea on the bar ran high, the anchor was twice dropped ere the passage was effected, an event that occurred about 2 P.M. At early dawn of the 16th, the *Eliza* hove in sight, and immediate transhipment ensued. On the 17th, she put into Port Davey, after His Excellency and the officers of the schooner having clearly ascertained that South West Cape is incorrectly laid down by Capt. King, whilst the observations of Flinders, which place it about 6½ miles more to the north, is the true latitude. Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour underwent a cursory inspection on the 18th, and in two days thereafter His Excellency and Lady Franklin arrived in good health at Government House."

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

When we published (*ante*, p. 1016) the letter received from Cape Coast Castle, respecting the concluding scenes of this ill-fated Expedition, we expressed our hope and belief that the account was coloured by prejudice or passion. We have now read, in the *Friend of Africa*, a sort of official statement respecting the Model Farm. It is not quite so satisfactory as we could have wished; there are some admissions that open the door to a very wide interpretation, and the African Society is so deeply interested in the question, that its statements cannot be received as impartial. Still, as the paper is interesting, we shall submit it for consideration:—

When Mr. Carr, the superintendent, was attacked, and returned on board the *Albert* to the coast (Oct. 9th), "the Farm was left under the charge of a very intelligent American negro from Liberia, with fourteen African labourers, principally from Sierra Leone; and on the departure of the *Albert* up the river (Sept. 21st), the *Amelia* schooner was left moored off the farm, with about nine negroes on board, under the care of an African from Sierra Leone, whose conduct appears to have been unexceptionable throughout. On the Farm the cotton-seed sent out with the Expedition had been sown, but, as the dry season had commenced, it did not fructify. The people were therefore chiefly occupied for a time in raising houses, of which seven were erected, besides four huts. The site of the Farm is described as beautiful, and of commanding view. ** The ground was cleared again in January, 1842, and in April, the soil being moistened by shower, some land was again sown in cotton. Yams, also, were planted, and Indian corn, which grew and produced well. As the rainy season had not fully commenced, however, the planting could not be finished till May, at which time

about forty or fifty acres (according to the acting superintendent) were sown with cotton. The seed brought from England having been lost in the first planting already alluded to, that of the country was substituted. For this product, the soil is described as being well adapted, and generally as very good; at the back of the mountains, as particularly fine and rich, with pleasant breezes on the summits. When the *Wilberforce* left the Farm, the Farm was looking very well, and the cotton crop had every promise of being a good one. It was left in charge of a neighbouring chief, with instructions to save the crop, which his people were perfectly capable of doing, and to keep it as a present to himself for his services. Of native labour there was no scarcity, the numbers employed being frequently 100, men, women, and boys, a day, and on one day 236 were fully occupied. At first 100 cowries (about 3d.) a day were given, but as the stock began to run short their pay was reduced to 50, which seems to have excited no murmur whatever. For these wages they worked cheerfully from 6½ A.M. to 5½ P.M., with an interval of one hour for breakfast and two for dinner. The security, indeed, which the establishment afforded from the constant inroads of the slavehunters, induced numbers of the persecuted tribes in the surrounding country to settle in their neighbourhood, and to cultivate much more extensively and carefully than before. The most distinct and positive contradiction is given by every one to the charge of making slaves of the natives, or driving them with the whip. Some men who were guilty of theft were certainly punished by their own head-man, at the request of Mr. Carr, whilst he remained on the Farm; and others were subsequently chastised by their own people for some clear and flagrant offence; but anything like slave-driving we are fully authorized to deny. The labourers, moreover, invariably received their wages themselves, and the chiefs only got occasional presents for special services, or to secure their good will. ** The price of slaves in the surrounding districts they ascertained to vary from 40,000 to 12,000, and 6,000 cowries (1,000 cowries is there about 4s. sterling), and in times of great distress some were sold as low as 300 cowries (about 9d.!), and children for ten yams! Several sad accounts are also given of the modes of kidnapping and capturing slaves, and the cruelties inflicted on them by their savage masters,—not without frequent remonstrances from the farm people. The whole country around the Model Farm, which, from its mountainous character, affords greater security to the persecuted fugitive, is consequently filled with exiles, principally of the Bassa and Kakanda nations, who hailed the establishment of the white man (or white man's people) in their neighbourhood with delight. Not without reason, indeed, for they not only received abundant employment at the Farm, but were protected by its very vicinity from their ruthless assailants; and for the first time in many years, were permitted to cultivate their little plantations in peace. On a visit to Mount Patteh, however, a chief accused the neighbouring village of Pandaike of seizing his people who had gone to the Farm to work,—but he seemed in no way dissatisfied with the settlers, and spoke of his intention of coming down, and having the palaver arranged with their assistance. Nor does this treacherous practice seem in any way to have been brought to their notice previously. The conduct of the people left at the Farm appears, indeed, throughout their sojourn there, to have been praiseworthy in all points relating to the Slave trade; but we regret to find, that in other respects, some of them were guilty of great improprieties, and that symptoms of insubordination occasionally appeared. It must be remembered, however, that on the departure of the Superintendent, they were necessarily left under an imperfect authority—a state of things which was certainly not contemplated when they were first sent up—were without a religious instructor, far removed from the eyes of their superiors, and from all the restraints incident to civilized society. It is evident, however, that the greater number were not undeserving of confidence, from the fact of the officer who visited the settlement having been disposed to leave them behind under proper direction. The surrounding natives are reported to be most peaceable and friendly, and very industrious. Well-stocked markets were regularly held at the Farm, and in the surrounding villages. The Bassas

(a very common name in Africa) are also described as a quiet and intelligent people, and extremely desirous of learning the manners and customs of Europeans, very obedient and industrious. In about six months, some of their children were taught to spell. They live on a high mountain, east of Mount Stirling, for safety. The Kakandas are said to be more indolent in their habits, and notwithstanding their own exposed situation, slave traders. They cultivate, however, small farms, on which they raise rice, yams, and guinea corn. The Agilahs, near Mount Stirling, are a sensible, humble people, friendly to the white man, and very willing to work, many of them having left their homes and gone to the Settlement to reside. To the west of the Farm, a village (Awodu) was found, surrounded with extensive fields of yams, corn, beans, millet, and other crops, with the natives at work carefully weeding their grounds. In the huts, they observed the women winding cotton thread dyed with indigo. The inhabitants, about two or three hundred in number, seemed highly pleased when they were told that the white men had come to teach them the word of God, and to live in peace and industry. At Joggé, a mile and a half from Stirling Hill, the huts were very neat and clean, and fine beds of tobacco were observed. Their earthen pots were very fine. The population, about four or five hundred, manifested the same disposition to hear, mingled with timidity, at the inhabitants of Awodu. Their funeral ceremonies are conducted with great pomp and noise, canoes darting up and down the river with incredible velocity, drums beating, muskets firing, and females shrieking and hissing like serpents. Mount Patteh (about 1200 feet high) is described as affording a very wide and pleasant prospect for many miles around. Its summit is as level as the deck of a ship, and almost covered with luxuriant crops of corn, yams, millet, &c. The natives, seem, moreover, to have some idea of the rotation of crops. Locoja, the largest of its villages, contains about four thousand inhabitants, and is surrounded with plantations of corn, &c. ** On the 3rd of July, 1842, the *Wilberforce*, commanded by Lieut. Webb, who had volunteered for the service, proceeded up the river, in conformity with the Government instructions, to examine the state of the Farm, and, if requisite, to bring away the settlers. On the 6th he arrived at Ibo, and saw Obi and King Boy, from whom he received a pilot, who had accompanied the expedition the year before. On the 10th they reached Iddah, and took on board the Attah's Head Mallam. Presents were given at both places. Near Beaufort Island they unfortunately struck on a rock, and were detained for five days. On the 18th they reached the Confluence, officers and men all well. On inquiring into the condition and prospects of the Farm, and the disposition of the labourers to remain, Lieut. Webb had fully determined upon leaving the establishment behind, with the volunteers (more than one half of the original number), under the charge of Acting Assistant Surgeon Hensman, who had accompanied the vessel from Fernando Po; but some sickness having appeared on board the *Wilberforce*, that gentleman could not be spared, and all the consequent arrangements were given up, and it was finally determined to bring away the entire establishment. The frame-house was accordingly taken down, and, with the remaining stores, transported to Fernando Po, where they remain in charge of the agent of the West African Company. The *Wilberforce* and *Amelia* finally left the Confluence on the 23rd of July. The tribes which had collected around the Farm expressed the deepest regret at their departure; and some even appeared offended, that the white man should come and sit down amongst them, to teach them his fashion, and then go away. To use the language of one man, the Bassas and Kakandas would "go down to meet another expedition!" The health of the settlers had been good throughout, and the climate is said to agree with coloured people. The natives did not seem to suffer much from disease. On reaching Sierra Leone, on their passage to England, many natives of the banks of the river expressed a strong desire of going up to settle, should another visit be paid to the site of the Farm, and several of the original labourers would willingly return. Horses at the Confluence are large and good, of Arab blood. Five were bought for the Farm, of which two died, two

were given away, and one taken to Fernando Po. Sheep, goats, and bullocks were plentiful.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

We announced last week the appointment of a Commission for the purpose of considering, on comprehensive principles, the various plans which have been suggested for the improvement of the metropolis. We earnestly wish, that, as a preliminary measure, Government had directed a survey to be conducted under the authority of the Board of Ordnance; for no plan can be deserving consideration which does not include a general system of drainage. Still we are thankful even for this Commission, and cannot but hope that good will result from it. Meantime, it may be well to inform our readers, from the Report of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, what has been done this year with reference to the subject. From this document it appears, that the Commissioners, having been empowered by Parliament to mise, upon mortgage of the Land Revenues of the Crown in Middlesex and London, such sums as might be deemed necessary for carrying into effect the several Improvements and New Streets directed to be made, they borrowed 500,000*l.* of the Equitable Assurance Company, at 3*l.* 15*s.* per cent. per annum, for three years, and thereafter at a fluctuating rate, to be regulated by the average price of consols. Further proceedings may best be collected from the Report itself:—

"Up to the 5th of January last, we have completed purchases in three of the lines of the projected improvements, to the amount, in the aggregate, of 120,804*l.* and have contracted for purchases, in all those lines of improvement, to the further aggregate amount of 122,742*l.*; viz.—I. In the line from Oxford-street to Holborn, we have completed purchases to the amount of 115,743*l.*, and have contracted for purchases to the further amount of 5,310*l.* II. In the line from Bow-street to Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, we have not completed any purchase, but have contracted for purchases to the amount of 11,385*l.* III. In the line from the London Docks to Spital-fields Church, we have completed purchases to the amount of 3,261*l.*, and have contracted for purchases to the further amount of 29,360*l.* IV. In the line from Coventry-street to Long Acre, we have completed purchases to the amount of 1,800*l.*, and have contracted for purchases to the further amount of 76,87*l.*—In the foregoing statement of purchases made and contracted for, we have included those cases only in which the purchase-money has been fixed. We have entered into contracts for many other purchases in each of the lines of projected improvements, at prices which remain to be ascertained by arbitration.—V. We have not yet purchased or contracted for the purchase of any part of the ground and houses required for the formation of the new street from East Smithfield to Rosemary-lane; but we have caused notices to be given to the freeholders on this line, pursuant to the Act of Parliament, that their premises will be required, and that we are ready to treat with them for the purchase thereof."

From a statement in the Appendix it appears, that of the 500,000*l.*, there remained a balance in hand of 370,954*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* With reference to the Parks, the Commissioners observe:—

"Under the authority of an Act obtained in the last session of Parliament, for enabling the Dean and Chapter of Westminster to sell their freehold interest in several houses at Knightsbridge, required for forming the new opening into Hyde Park, we have agreed with them for the purchase of such interest, and Mr. Thomas Cubitt, who has been actively assisting in promoting that improvement, being in possession of the leasehold interest of the late Cannon Brewhouse, which occupied the immediate site of the new entrance, has entirely removed that building, and has, at his own cost, executed all the other works immediately connected with such new entrance, of which the public have had the benefit for some months past. In order, however, to complete the plan, and to give an improved character and appearance to this already much used access to Hyde Park, it has become desirable to make an additional purchase from the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and also to acquire the interests of lessees and occupiers, who were either under disabilities, or unwilling to sell their interests on such terms as we could properly

agree to. For this purpose additional powers have been given by an Act passed in the present session. Under the same Act, power is given to this Board to purchase three houses in High-street, Kensington, for the purpose of opening a new road from that street to Bayswater, in the parish of Paddington, in furtherance of the plan for letting on building ground the site of the late kitchen garden at Kensington, and for improving other royal gardens. By the Act of 5 Vict. c. 1, the site of that garden was declared to be part and parcel of the land revenues of the Crown, and was placed under our management, subject to provisions that the value thereof be applicable to form a new royal kitchen garden, at or near Windsor, for the use of Her Majesty. In exercise of the powers vested in us by this last-mentioned Act, we have received from the Lord Steward of Her Majesty's household the possession of the late kitchen garden at Kensington, and have, by advertisements, offered to let the same as sites for villas, but have not yet concluded any agreements for that purpose. We have, however, put in progress a new sewer for draining the intended houses; and when that shall have been completed, and the communications formed as above mentioned, the villa sites will probably become more desired, and be objects of competition.

"The death of Lady William Gordon, who, by the special favour of the Sovereign, had been permitted to occupy the lodge in the Green Park after the lease thereof had expired, having afforded an opportunity of restoring to the park the site of that lodge and the ground held therewith, the house has been taken down, the materials disposed of, and the operations of levelling the ground, laying the same into grass, and forming a gravel walk to connect with the other walks in the park, are now in progress.

"The operations adverted to in our last Report, as being then in progress, for giving increased accommodation to the public in the Regent's Park, according to a plan annexed to that Report, have to a great extent been completed. A large area of the park has been opened for general admission, gravel paths formed, and convenient bridges constructed across the Ornamental Water leading from the inner circle, and from opposite to Hanover Gate. The new communications across the Regent's Canal, for connecting the Park with Primrose Hill, are in a state of great forwardness; and the terms by which the Crown becomes the purchaser, from the Provost and Fellows of Eton College, of a large portion of Primrose Hill, having been finally settled, a bill has received the sanction of Parliament in the present session, for giving effect to such purchase. That act contains the requisite powers for buying up the interest of the lessee of the College, without which the improvement could not be effected till the expiration of his lease in the year 1859.

"As the Act passed in the last session of Parliament, for enabling us to complete the contract for the sale of the lease of York House, and to purchase certain lands for forming a new park between the Hackney and Whitechapel roads, did not contain all the requisite powers for effecting the latter object, the former only has been accomplished, and, so far as regards the latter, the act had been in a great degree inoperative; but notices having been given of an intended further application to Parliament, in the present session, and a bill for giving extended and necessary powers having been introduced early in the session, and passed into a law, we are now proceeding, under the said Act, to deal with the parties whose properties will be required, and to take the other necessary measures for executing the improvements. In the mean time, the money arisen from the sale of York House, which had been invested in Exchequer bills, and deposited in the names of trustees, was on the completion of the contract paid to us, and remains invested in the same security, applicable under the powers and for the purposes stated in the said last-mentioned Act."

WELLS CATHEDRAL.

Hampstead, Dec. 6, 1842.

The mention of my name in your paper of last week, with reference to my professional employment at Wells Cathedral (in a somewhat critical sense, which I accept in good part,) will, I am sure, warrant

* They have since been opened to the public.

my request, that you will admit the present answer in your next.

First, allow me to explain, that the proposed restorations are confined to the choir and organ, and are to be defrayed by an hitherto limited subscription, the greater part of which has been furnished by the Very Reverend Dean Goodenough, and Archdeacon Brymer. The fabric itself is not then in danger of being Wyatized, or polluted with any unhallowed interpolations. Secondly, in reply to the suspicions of your weekly gossip, as to my loyalty towards our national architecture, I am bound to confess, that my studies of the art have led me to prefer the taste of those ages and countries, which modern Europe has admitted as the pre-eminent examples in fine art; to those, which by the same authorities have been proverbially called dark. At the same time I view with the deepest interest that respectable spirit of our times, the restoration of our ancient monuments; so that those buildings, of barbarous times indeed, but dear to us by so many associations and peculiar merits of structure, will be insured to us for two or three hundred years to come.

But no juvenile lover of the art can ever have resisted the attractive and ornamental graces of so called Gothic Architecture. Many years of my youth were so employed, and long before any *scen* of professional employment at Wells existed, I pointed out to the dean and chapter an interpretation of the admirable and unexampled subjects of sculpture, with which that venerable cathedral is adorned—sculpture, which is the blind wonder of all beholders, and which neither William of Worcester, Carter (himself a Roman Catholic, and who engraved them,) Flaxman, Britton, nor any other commentator, has ever attempted: the very crude outline of which (as some compensation for my intrusion,) I beg to offer to the consideration of your antiquarian readers.

Pwards of 300 statues, in nine tiers, decorate the west and north fronts: in the first nearest the earth, in niches and under canopies, are the personages of the first and second Christian missions to this country: as St. Paul, Joseph of Arimathea, and St. Augustine and his followers. In the second tier, are the angels, chanting *gloria in excelsis*, and holding crowns spiritual and temporal, the rewards of those predication. In the third tier, to the south, subjects of the Old Testament; to the north of the New—compositions of the highest merit and interest: two of them are cited by Flaxman as examples of pure and expressive art. In the fourth and fifth tiers is contained an historical series of the lords spiritual and temporal, saints and martyrs, under whom the church has flourished in this country: as King Ina, founder of the conventional Church, Edward the elder, founder of the Episcopal Church of Wells; the Saxon, Danish, Norman, and Plantagenet dynasties, individually and most significantly represented: together with these are the founders of those dynasties, the remarkable daughters, and allies by marriage, of the royal families of England, with the leading characters and lords of the church: as Archbishops Britthelius, St. Dunstan, Bishop Aster, Grimbald, the Earl of Mercia, surrounding Alfred, &c.; they form a complete illustration of the history of Malibury, and the early historians of our country—"a calendar for unlearned men," as well as for unlearned artists; for thus are many of them as beautiful as they are deeply interesting to Englishmen. In the sixth tier, there are ninety-two compositions of the Resurrection, starting in significance and pathos and expression, worthy of John of Pla, or a greater man, John Flaxman. In the seventh tier are the angels sounding the last trump, the four archangels conspicuous. In the eighth tier, are the apostles, of colossal dimensions and admirable sculpture. In the ninth tier, are the remains of the Saviour in judgment, with niches on either side, for the Virgin and St. John, as usual.

This magnificent picture of the great doctrines of the Christian dispensation, and its peculiar relation to this country, hitherto sealed, was unravelled at no small expense of time and meditation, (since there are no inscriptions or records of any kind,) and indeed of colds and catarrhs caught at *Kill-Cannon* corner, in the months of November and December. So that the warmth even of my "sympathetic acquaintance with the early architecture of our country," need not be doubted by your weekly gossip.

At Exeter, I pointed out to the dean and chapter,

the intention of the admirable sculpture in the west front, particularly the four Saxon kings, and the Norman Plantagenet and Tudor dynasty, in very remarkable, characteristic, and beautiful sculpture, long neglected and polluted with dirt and soot, and not described in the magnificent work on this cathedral by the Society of Antiquaries. In short, the hitherto untouched sculpturesque antiquities of our country, to be remarked throughout England, would lead me to trespass too long on your indulgence, and that of your readers.

I cannot however help animadverting on the supineness of our Society of Antiquaries, on subjects of such paramount importance to our history and antiquities, and indeed of our commentators in general, upon this essential feature of architectural composition, which can only be accounted for by our Protestant abhorrence of images, and the holy fear of Popery. Until this subject, the sculpture of our ancient architecture, is studied, the true spirit and intention of that architecture will never be understood; it will then possibly be found, that the intercession of saints, and the pride of heraldry, are not in accordance with the spirit of a Protestant and a free people of the 19th century; and we may then shake off this dull unmannerly copyism which disgraces our school, and daring to think for ourselves, invent, and perfect an architecture suited to the ideas, religious and moral, of our times, and in accordance with the materials and structure of an improved practice, and a great and rich and thinking people.—I remain, Mr. Editor, with great respect,
Yours, &c.

C. R. COCKERELL.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE publishing season has come upon us rather unexpectedly, and without the "announcements" with which it is usually heralded. We have, however, gleaned here and there some words of promise. Thus Mr. Murray is preparing for us 'The Diary of a Prisoner in Afghanistan,' and Messrs. Longman, 'A Narrative of the Campaigns in Scinde and Afghanistan, in a Series of Letters from the late Col. Dennie'; Mr. Murray also promises 'Memoirs and Correspondence of the late Francis Horner'; 'Sketches on the Coast of the Mediterranean, in Verse and Prose,' by Lord Francis Egerton; 'Narrative of a Yacht Voyage in the Mediterranean,' by a Lady; 'The Russian Campaign of 1812,' by Von Clausewitz, translated from the German; 'Days of Salmon-Fishing,' by William Scrope; 'Russia in Europe, and the Ural Mountains, Geologically Illustrated,' by R. I. Murchison, M. E. de Verneuil, and Count A. von Kerslering; and 'Travels in the Interior of New Zealand,' by Ernest Diefenbach, M.D. An edition of 'The Vicar of Wakefield' may also be shortly expected, illustrated with drawings by Mr. Mulready. We had a chance opportunity lately of looking over these illustrations, and, unless our hurried glance deceived us, they will be excellent—in the best and purest taste; and will convince some sceptics, that we need not travel to Germany for draughtsmen—though we admit there are but few equal to Mr. Mulready. From America we learn that Mr. Stephens's further 'Researches among the Antiquities of Central America' will be shortly published; and from the U.S. *Literary Advertiser*, that "Queen Victoria has expressed her desire to have forwarded an early copy of this work, to be elegantly bound for her private library!" Other and important works on this interesting subject, which has naturally excited great interest in America, may be daily expected. The same authority mentions that another traveller has lately visited "the site of these mysterious remains of former greatness; a Mr. Norman, whose researches and explorations have been extended in a direction not previously visited, where he has discovered many stupendous and highly interesting vestiges of antiquity. His forthcoming work comprises a detailed account of his researches, illustrated by numerous drawings of the most important ruins, from sketches made on the spot, and including a collection of idols, &c., the first ever discovered, and which are extremely curious and unique." To this list we may add a title or two which have struck us in the lists of French publication: and among the most important, is the first volume, by M. Létronne, of 'Recueil des Inscriptions Grecques et Latines de l'Egypte, étudiées dans leur rapport avec l'Histoire Politique, l'Administration Intérieure, les

Institutions civiles et religieuses de ce Pays, depuis la conquête d'Alexandre, jusqu'à celle des Arabes'; the fourth volume of M. Amédée Duquesne's 'Histoire des Lettres,' comprising the literature of the Middle Ages; 'Histoire de la Régence et de la Minorité de Louis XV., jusqu'au Ministère du Cardinal Fleury,' by M. Lémontey; 'Histoire de la Chimie depuis les Temps les plus reculés jusqu'à notre Époque,' the third and fourth volumes of M. Mignet's work, compiled from treatises and other diplomatic documents hitherto unknown, on the 'Négociations relatives à la Succession d'Espagne'; 'Mémoires touchant la Vie et les Écrits de Madame de Sévigné'; 'Histoire de la Destruction du Paganisme en Occident,' and 'Théorie et Pratique de la Science Sociale, ou l'Exposé des Principes de Morale et d'Économie Publique et de Politique, appliqués à nos Intérêts Matériels.'

However much we may be opposed on principle to the Royal Polytechnic Union (see *ante*, p. 996), we willingly admit that the Directors have commenced practical operations judiciously, by forming an engagement with the members of the Etching Club, to produce a series of etchings as the presentation prize, if it may be so called, to each subscriber. We understand that the members of the club have been for some time busily engaged on a series of illustrations to the Songs of Shakespeare, to be executed in the same size and style as those to Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village,' (see *Athen.* No. 734,) to be completed by the 1st of January next. We will take this opportunity of suggesting to all concerned in the management of Art Unions, that they would do good service to Art by changing some of their miserable, mischievous ten-pound prizes, to be laid out in paintings, into prizes themselves; or of a set, for example, of the fac-similes of Michael Angelo's Sistine Chapel, which were completed by Mr. Linnell, a year or two ago, from the originals in the possession of Mr. Rogers. This work, though published, has not fallen into the ordinary channels of publication, and it is but recently that we had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with it. The set consists of upwards of forty subjects. There are peculiarities proving that the originals were made before, or at least contemporaneous with, the paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and before the execution of Michael Angelo's 'Last Judgment,' for portions of the ceiling are represented which were altered to accommodate the 'Last Judgment.' Besides their high intrinsic merit, there are variations between these drawings and the ceiling which make it clear, that the former could not have been copied from the latter. These drawings were once part of Sir Peter Lely's collection: subsequently of that of Sir Joshua Reynolds, and now belong to Mr. Rogers. A notice which accompanies the published collection states, that "while in the possession of Sir Joshua Reynolds they were thought to be by Vasari, but it has been found, by a careful comparison of dates, that he was too young at the time to have executed them. The best critics, however, have judged them to be (if not by Michael Angelo) by P. del Vaga; though some late artists of eminence have thought they were by Michael Angelo himself, and there is much internal evidence to support this opinion, such as deviations from the design of the frescoes, sketches of ornaments upon the mouldings," &c.

When the *Musical Antiquarian Society* was established, we pointed out the revolution which must, one day, be brought about in the musical world by the joint-stock system of publication, especially when applied to ancient works. We now hear rumours that a society is about to be formed, to consist of two thousand subscribers, for the issue of a cheap, and complete edition of Handel's compositions, to be edited by the best musicians of the day, (why notably at once to Mendelssohn, who has for years contemplated such a work?) and produced at the rate of five numbers a year or thereabouts. Should this scheme be carried into effect, we shall, of course, have complete editions of Haydn and Mozart. Then, too, we would ask for similar republications of Palestrina and Marcello, and Jommelli: the last author in particular, as occupying an interesting and central position, not only between the ancient and modern schools of music, but between those of Italy and Germany. Of course, the instrumentalists, will, in their turns, agitate for Sebastian Bach, Scarlatti, Corelli, &c. &c. In short, the field is one almost without boundaries,

and the more widely it is explored, the better will it be for the next generation.

Having spoken of Mendelssohn casually, his admirers will be glad to learn, that he has arranged to divide his time between Leipzig and Berlin, so as not to give up his court-service in the latter town, nor, in the former, his direction of its admirable concerts; the best of their kind now extant in Europe. We believe, too, that it is by his instance that a grant has been obtained, from His Majesty the King of Saxony, for the formation of a musical school or conservatory at Leipzig—to be superintended by himself, Herr David, and Herr Hauptmann, an excellent contrapuntist, and who has recently been appointed as musical head of the *Tomasschule*. Under such auspices, the establishment can hardly fail to prosper. It is interesting, too, to read the announcement of 'Antigone' with its new pomp of musical choruses, as in preparation at the Theatre at Athens! But the promises, which touch us more closely home, are those of the theatrical orchestra concerts, about to be given in Vienna and Berlin—at the former of which four, at the latter six, new symphonies are to be performed. Let our Philharmonic directors be awake. They have written, it is said, offering commissions to Mendelssohn, Spohr, and Lachner:—we wish, too, they could be prevailed on to produce the symphony of Schubert, so often and so strongly recommended to them, and which has never failed to produce the strongest effect at the aforesaid excellent Leipzig concerts.

We adverted, a fortnight since, to M. Mainzer's account of his recent musical tour, orally delivered to his assembled classes. By *The Musical Times* we perceive that his success in the establishment of his method has been singularly great in Edinburgh, where his plans are to be carried out under the auspices of a committee of great weight and authority, and the superintendence of M. Guyemer. There is life and motion everywhere; we were invited for yesterday evening, to a choral meeting at Surrey Chapel, where a regular singing society has been formed by one of Mr. Hullah's assistants. We are constantly receiving tidings, too, from the country, of small independent bodies uniting for musical practice and performance: without unfair preference, particularizing the *Guildford Choral Society* on account of the varied nature of its programmes. Without deceiving ourselves by anticipating impossible results, and knowing well that it is the nature of all sudden revivals to be ephemeral in their influence, it is certain, at least, that all this singing cannot take place without an effect being produced on the services of public worship. It is clear that we are to have musical as well as architectural restorations in our churches; and to this fact we would direct the attention of those who occupy themselves with the present decay and impending extinction of the cathedral choirs on their present foundation. To close this discursive paragraph, we may add, that all who desire information on the last-mentioned subject, will do well to attend the coming series of Gresham Lectures to be delivered by Professor Taylor; few of our musicians having paid such close attention to the subject.

An Electro-magnetic Exhibition has been opened at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, for the purpose of showing "the application of this new power to machinery of various kinds, and of exemplifying, on a large scale, the effects of the electro-magnetic fluid as a chemical agent." The exhibition will be interesting to young persons; but as an application of the new motive power on a large scale, we were disappointed. It is very true, that sufficient power is generated to draw a small carriage, but surely Jacobi did more, who navigated a vessel on the Neva, with a party of twelve or fourteen persons on board. The papers reported, not long since, that a locomotive carriage, weighing six tons, had been impelled at a rate of four miles an hour along the Edinburgh Railway, solely by the agency of Mr. Davidson's apparatus; but we believe that six tons was the weight of the carriage and galvanic machine together.

The following paragraph is from the French papers, just received. "Some geographical intelligence of interest has lately been received from Egypt. M. d'Arnaud, a French traveller, who formed part of an expedition despatched by Mehemet Ali to ascend to the sources of the Nile, has reached the upper part of the stream. According to the general opinion, the

Nile, after the south, it took its point where states, the volume of west. It pursued its artery of carried M. and that the mem- journal of had been by a Paris thing or m. d'Arnaud branches veller's v city states the Nile is. This is the since their attra in that q on record Abyssinia, the chief is the r ancients t proposition place; bu remarked character mouth, ha rent during circumsta when Ma White R. River, the of Arab er, mu superior inquries Brocchi (and Russ tine Nile. The B awarded at the E. The num seventeende decree alar-gilt. Vestri after the "amicable —ha ju of his art Taglioni poetical the conn

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Nile, after a direct course from its mouth towards the south, turned to the west, where it was supposed it took its origin. M. d'Arnaud had arrived at the point where the river turns off, and in his letter he states, that the principal branch, both in width and volume of water, came from the south and not the west. It is, therefore, towards the south that he has pursued his journey, to seek the source of the great artery of Egypt. It appears that the vessel which carried M. d'Arnaud was dashed to pieces in the Nile, and that the collections of natural history, made by the members of the expedition, were lost. The journal of the voyage, and the geographical documents, had been saved." The above intelligence, circulated by a Parisian journal, is vague enough to mean anything or nothing. It does not tell us how far M. d'Arnaud went, nor where is the separation of the branches of the river spoken of, nor where the traveller's vessel was wrecked. The only point explicitly stated is, that in the opinion of M. d'Arnaud, the Nile flows from the south and not from the west. This is the opinion which we have always held; and since the mountains of the Moon have not yet lost their attraction, and discovery seems to be proceeding in that quarter, we have no objection to place also on record our opinion, that the Blue River or Nile of Abyssinia is the true Nile; that is to say, that it is the chief branch of the Egyptian river, and also that it is the river, the sources of which were assigned by the ancients to the mountains of the Moon. The latter proposition we cannot venture to demonstrate in this place; but with respect to the former, it may be remarked that the White River bears much of the character of a lake for nearly 200 miles above its mouth, having great width but no perceptible current during the greater part of the year. To this circumstance, to the unusual floods of the year 1821, when Mr. English and M. Caillaud crossed the White River, which then swelled before the Blue River, though ordinarily a month later, to the theories of Arab geography, and to the influence of ancient error, must be ascribed the prevalent belief in the superiority of the western branch of the Nile. The inquiries and personal observations of Hey, Zuccoli, Brocchi (an accomplished Milanese), Ibrahim Kashif and Rüssiger, all combine to prove that the reputed Nile is a river of very little importance.

The Belgian journals publish a list of the honours awarded to the artists whose works were exhibited at the Exhibition which has just closed in Brussels. The number of medals given is fifty-one: out of seventeen of these, which are gold, seven have been decreed to foreign artists; and out of thirty-four, silver-gilt, strangers have carried off fourteen.

Vestris—of the illustrious family who (to speak after the fashion of its historian) so long maintained "amicable relations with the Royal Family of France"—has just died in Paris, aged eighty-three. Since his departure from the opera stage, the grand school of his art is held by many Parisians to have declined; Taglioni and her followers being considered as merely popular enthusiasts, who enchant, but do not satisfy the connoisseur.

As one of the many interesting details of the recent eventful movements in Afghanistan, we find it stated that, "among the trophies which General Nott brings back to India, are the celebrated sandal-wood gates which a Mahometan conqueror had taken away from an Indian temple, and which had, during nearly eight centuries, formed the chief ornament of his tomb, at Ghuznee." Their future destination is, as yet, unknown.—As a companion paragraph we may mention, an ordinance just issued by the French Minister of War, decreeing the removal of the Triumphal Arch of Djimilah (*Cuiculum*), said to be the most perfect of the Roman monuments which the modern conquerors have discovered in Africa, for re-erecting in some conspicuous part of Paris, agreeably to the expressed wish of the late Duke of Orleans. The same ordinance directs the appropriation of the money subscribed by the Army and Navy for a memorial to the ill-fated prince, to the erection of two equestrian statues in bronze,—one in Paris, and the other in the principal *place* of Algiers.—The Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres has elected, by a large majority, M. Léon de Laborde, into the vacancy occasioned by the death of his father, the Count Alexandre.—An action was lately brought by the Baron Dudson against M. Cape-

figue, for certain passages in his 'Histoire de la Restauration, par un Homme d'Etat,' which the Baron complained of as injurious to his reputation. The tribunal dismissed the complaint, on the ground that M. Capefigue had not overstepped the limits of fair and moderate discussion allowed to the historic reporter,—without which reasonable latitude, says the decree, "history, and contemporary history in particular, would be an impossibility."—At Rouen, a tablet of white marble has been inserted in the facade of the house No. 13 bis, in the Rue de l'Avalasse, with the following inscription, in letters of gold:—"In this house was born, on the 20th May, 1791, Théodore Géricault, the painter of the 'Wreck of the Medusa.'"—Speaking of the honours paid to genius, on the Continent, we may mention that M. Poujoulat's 'History of Jerusalem' has obtained for him two distinguished testimonials, the King of Holland having created him a Knight of his Order of the Lion, and the King of Sardinia transmitted to him a large gold medal, with his own effigy on one side, and on the other the name of the historian, and this inscription:—"Ob Hierosolymæ Historiam scilicet conscriptam, 1842."

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

The Nobility, Gentry, and the Public are informed, that this establishment WILL POSITIVELY BE CLOSED for the season, on SATURDAY the 31st instant, when both Pictures, now exhibiting, viz. THE VILLAGE OF ALAGNA, and THE SHRINE OF THE NATIVITY, will be removed, and replaced by subjects of great novelty and interest. Open from 10 till 4.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—Dec. 6.—The President, Professor Graham, in the chair.—1, A communication from W. H. Balmain, Esq. was read, announcing the discovery by him of a new compound of nitrogen and boron, which he names "ethogen," and its compounds "the ethonides." This substance, which is formed by heating boracic acid and mellow together, and obtained as a light white powder, appears to form a series of compounds with metals, several of which were described, and has some analogy to cyanogen, but containing boron in the place of carbon. Their atomic composition, however, has not yet been determined. 2, "Report of some Experiments with Saline Manures, containing Nitrogen, conducted on the Manor Farm, Havering-at-Bower, Essex, in the occupation of C. Hall, Esq." communicated by W. M. F. Chatterley, Esq.—The experiments were suggested by the prevailing opinion that the fertilizing power of some animal manures, and of the salts, nitre (nitrate of potash), nitrate of soda, and sulphate of ammonia, depend upon the proportion of nitrogen they contain. The salts mentioned are all, from their low price, within the reach of the farmer, and the quantity of the last thrown into the market is greatly increasing from the extension of the new mode of purifying coal gas from its ammonia, by washing the gas with dilute sulphuric acid. The interest also of experiments with salts is greater than with mixed manures, both to the farmer, who, from the nature of the former substances, may depend upon their uniformity, and to the chemist, as their composition is necessarily known to him. A field of wheat was chosen which in the latter end of April 1842 presented a thin plant; the salts were top-dressed over the land by hand, on the 12th of May, and the crop mowed on the 10th of August. The soil was rather poor, consisting of a heavy clay upon a subsoil of the London clay. 1, No manure; corn per acre 1,413 pounds. 2, with 28 pounds of sulphate of ammonia; corn 1,612 pounds. 3, With 140 pounds of the same salt; corn 1,999 pounds. 4, With 112 pounds of nitrate of soda; corn 1,905 pounds. 5, With 112 pounds of nitre; corn 1,890 pounds. The increase in the straw was also considerable in all cases, except with the small proportion of sulphate of ammonia. The total increase in the four manured crops was per cent., in the order in which they were enumerated,—14.1, 41.5, 34, and 33.5; the cost of the manure for the three last did not greatly differ, being 21s. 9d., 24s. 6d., 27s. 6d.; and the profit on the outlay was, with the small dose of sulphate of ammonia, 294 per cent.; with the large dose, 212 per cent.; with the nitrate of soda, 138 per cent.; and with the nitrate of potash, 92 per cent. The principal conclusions drawn by the author are, that the increase of nitrogen in the crop is greater than is accounted for by the nitrogen of the manures,

showing that these manures have a stimulating effect, or enable the plants to draw additional nitrogenized food from the soil and atmosphere; the considerable superiority of sulphate of ammonia over the other salts, and the greater proportional efficiency of a small than of a large dose of that salt. The sulphate of ammonia costs 17s. per cwt. It appears best to apply this salt in the proportion of about 1 cwt. per acre, at three different dressings, the first quantity when the crop of wheat makes its spring growth, or if of oats when about two inches above the ground; the second quantity about a month afterwards; and the third at the time of the formation of the ear. To meet the practical difficulty of distributing so small a quantity as one-third of a hundredweight over an acre, about twice the quantity of common salt or of soot may be mixed with the ammoniacal salt. These, and most saline manures, when used as a top dressing, should be supplied to the plant when dry, after a shower of rain, or during hazy weather.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Dec. 6.—The Duke of Devonshire, President, in the chair.—Sir R. Howard, Bart. M.P., Messrs. W. Buckmaster, and L. J. Mackay, were elected members. The exhibition, both of fruits and flowers, was good. Mr. Paxton, gardener to His Grace the President, exhibited a magnificent plant of *Lelia anceps*, with six slender spikes drooping gracefully around, each bearing at its extremity a cluster of rich violet-purple flowers; a species of *Renanthera*, with small dark chocolate-coloured blossoms, lately introduced by Mr. Cumming from the East Indies; and the singular little *Trias racemosa*, resembling a drooping feather, and exhaling an odour not unlike that of new hay: a Knightian medal was awarded for the *Lelia*. From Mrs. Lawrence, a fine plant of *Epidendrum nutans*, above six feet high, loaded with racemes of greenish white flowers; a variety of the same, having a slight tinge of yellow; *Oncidium excavatum* and *Oncidium leucochilum*, the former with bright yellow blossoms mottled with reddish brown spots—the latter having a green perianth spotted with dark brown, strongly contrasted with the pure white colour of the labelum; a handsome specimen of *Zygopetalum Mackiae*; *Acacia platyptera*, a new and rare variety, bearing some resemblance to *A. decurrens*; and a plant of the double Chinese Primrose. Mrs. Lawrence also exhibited a Convolvulaceous plant, with white flowers (growing three or four together at the axil of every leaf), which had been raised from seed received from Lord Auckland. A Banksian medal was awarded for *Oncidium leucochilum*. A large collection of cut Orchidaceous flowers was sent by T. Brocklehurst, Esq.; amongst them were the rare and sweet-scented *Maxillaria Steelii*, with white wax-like flowers, curiously spotted with brown, and found in Trinidad, growing upon the stems of palm-trees; *Peristeria pendula*, the Dove-flower of the Gardens, producing its singular cup-like blossoms in clusters; *Laelia albida*, pure white, and diffusing an agreeable fragrance; a fine dark variety of *Zygopetalum Mackiae*; several varieties of *Gongora maculata*; a handsome variety of *Epidendrum macrochilum*, and various others: a certificate was awarded for them. From Mr. Pawley, of Bromley, were four well grown plants of *Epiphyllum truncatum*, each loaded with a mass of scarlet flowers: for these a Banksian medal was awarded. W. F. G. Farmer, Esq., exhibited a fine plant of *Gasnera zebra*, for which a certificate was awarded. G. Crawshay, Esq. exhibited ten bunches of excellent Black Hamburg Grapes (each bunch weighing about 1 lb. 3 oz.), cut from the same vine as those shown at the last meeting; the house still contains about 250 bunches in perfect condition, the whole having been grown without the application of fire-heat in the early part of the season, and not more than two bushels of coke having been used for keeping the house dry during the late dull weather; six handsome specimens of the Beurre Diel Pear, weighing 5½ lb., and two large heads of good solid Red Celery, weighing 6 lb. each; a certificate was awarded for the Celery. From G. Knott, Esq., a Providence Pine Apple, weighing 8 lb., and an Antigua, weighing 4 lb., both excellent specimens: a Banksian medal was awarded for the Providence. A handsome fruit of the Enville Pine Apple, weighing 3 lb. 14 oz., was sent by the Duke of Sutherland. From — Hodges, Esq., were two enormous specimens of Uvedale's St.

Germain Pear, each weighing 2 lb. 8 oz.; a rather unusual weight even for this kind. From R. Gordon, Esq., some seedling Apples, called the Hermitage Pippin, and two Apples not named; the larger of which weighed 1 lb. 4 oz., and was just beginning to decay; it afforded a good illustration of the statement made by Mr. Hassal at the Microscopical Society (*ante*, pp. 956, 1013), that the decay of apples was produced by the attack of a microscopical fungus, which, seizing on an injured part of an apple or pear, quickly spreads itself in all directions, until eventually the whole body of the fruit is reduced to a state of decomposition. From the Garden of the Society were a handsome plant of *Zygopetalum intermedium*; *Stanhopea saccata*; the pretty little *Oncidium Ornitophrynum*, its slender panicles of red and yellow flowers hanging down in all directions; plants of the double white and red Chinese Primroses; *Epiphyllum truncatum*, and *Helleborus orientalis*, or the true Olympian Hellebore, a very rare plant, with beautiful green and white flowers; it is hardy, and has only lately been introduced from Mount Olympus. A collection of Chrysanthemums from the Garden were also exhibited.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. — Geographical Society, 1 p. 8. P.M.
— Royal Academy.—Anatomical Lecture.
TUES. — Zoological Society, 1 p. 8.—Scientific Business.
— Meteorological Society, 8.
WED. — Linnean Society, 1 p. 8.
— Geological Society, 1 p. 8.
— Society of Arts, 1 p. 8.
— Medico-Botanical Society, 8.
THUR. — Royal Society, 1 p. 8.
— Society of Antiquaries, 8.
FRI. — Botanical Society, 8.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—
On Monday will be performed, KING JOHN, the Text of Shakespeare, With the Queen's Own, KING ARTHUR. Tuesday, the new Play of THE PATRICIAN'S DAUGHTER. Principal Characters: Messrs. Phelps, Macready, Elton, Hudson, Ryder; Mrs. Warner, Miss Helen Faust. Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT, and Congreve's Comedy of LOVE FOR LOVE, will be performed in the course of the week.

DRURY LANE.—"The Patrician's Daughter," which had been advertised for Thursday, is postponed till to-night. The prologue, by Mr. Charles Dickens, is made a leading feature in the announcements.

HAYMARKET.—The entertainments here have been agreeably varied, since the engagement of Madame Vestris and her husband, by the light and elegant vaudevilles that made the Olympic so popular under her management; and the audience evidently welcome the change as an improvement. A new piece of this description, called "The Dowager," written by Mr. Charles Mathews, with a view to bring out his own and his wife's talents, has been very successful. The incident of a young and lovely dowager countess, supposed to be old, ugly, and formal, by her nieces, is turned to amusing account. The nieces, expecting a visit from their formidable relative, and anticipating a regular kill-joy, cannot be persuaded that the gay and fascinating young creature who arrives is really their aunt, and treat her as an impostor, taxing her with being an actress hired to personate the dowager: finding denial vain, the countess affects to acquiesce, and retaliates in such a manner as completely turns the tables on her nieces, who are at last accidentally convinced of their error. The equivocal situation is kept up with spirit and vivacity, and gives rise to some piquant dialogue and playful badinage. Madame Vestris, as the dowager, looks captivating in a costume of the last century, and delivers rebukes and railing with a tact and address that gives them point and pleasantness; and Mr. Mathews, as a volatile young spark, in a perpetual paroxysm of delight and admiration, keeps the stage in a constant whirl of vivacity. The piece is well put on the stage; the dresses are handsome and the acting is good throughout, though Brindal's bashfulness is too obviously assumed. Madame Celeste made her first appearance on Wednesday, since her return from America, and was warmly greeted.

MISCELLANEA

John S. Hawkins.—We are reminded by the obituary notices in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, that we omitted to record, at the time, the death of this gentleman—the son of Sir John Hawkins, the biographer of Johnson, and author of "The History of Music," and brother of Letitia Hawkins, the authoress of the "Anecdotes." Mr. J. S. Hawkins died on the

12th August, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. "He was an antiquary," says our authority, "of much learning, research and industry"—and wrote some elaborate papers on Carter's "Ancient Sculpture and Painting." The early descriptions in Smith's "Antiquities of Westminster" and "Observations on a History of Gothic Architecture," and was a contributor to many works of a like character.

John Gage Rokewood.—This gentleman, an antiquary of reputation, and director of the Society of Antiquaries, died on the 14th ult. aged fifty-six. He wrote "The History and Antiquities of Hengrave," "The History of Thingoe Hundred, Suffolk," and was a voluminous contributor to the *Archæologia*.

Pitcairn's Island.—A letter in the *Hampshire Telegraph* gives a brief account of a late visit to this island, by H.M. frigate *Curaçoa*. Most of the officers were enabled to land, and were received by its interesting inhabitants with that welcome which they are ever so ready to afford to those who have the opportunity of visiting them; indeed, the arrival of the *Curaçoa* was most opportune, for they had been labouring under a severe epidemic, which the kind exertions of the Surgeon, together with a supply of medicines presented to them by Captain Jones, tended much to alleviate. On the second day, they were presented with the stores sent them by Her Majesty's Government, consisting of a supply of arms and ammunition, spades, iron kettles, &c., receiving, at the same time, an address from Captain Jones, in which, after giving them all the credit due for their hitherto exemplary conduct, he admonished them to continue in the same quiet and peaceable way, as any dereliction would withdraw from them the support of Her Majesty's Government. They have increased in number to 114; the oldest person on the island being the wife of Christian, the chief of the mutineers, and one of those Otaheitians, who sailed in the *Bounty* from Otaheite to Pitcairn's Island; she perfectly recollects the landing of Captain Cook at Otaheite.

Owhyhee.—The *Curaçoa* afterwards visited this island. It was here that Captain Cook lost his life, and the only monument which marks the spot on which he fell, is the stump of an old cocoa-nut tree, with a sheet of copper nailed on it some years ago by H.M.S. *Imogene*. An old gray-headed native, who lived in a hut close to the spot, intimated to some of the officers that he was present at the tragical event, and actually went through a kind of pantomimic representation of the whole scene—the first attack with stones—the retreat of Cook to the boats—his death—the fear of the natives when the ship fired upon them, which he exemplified by falling down and creeping upon his belly behind the nearest bush, and then the roasting and eating of the body on a hill out of the reach of the shot. The representation was too perfect to admit of a doubt as to his having been an eye-witness, if not an actor in the business. A large party of the officers visited the famous volcano of Kiranea, situated about twenty miles from the anchorage, and deemed the largest and in the most active state of any in the known world—the circumference of the crater being about thirteen or fourteen miles; and its depth a thousand feet below the level of the surrounding plain, from which it appears to have at once sunk perpendicularly down. They descended, with a guide, into the great crater, and after walking over some miles of its uneven surface, arrived at a lake of red hot burning lava, of at least three miles in circumference; they returned on the seventh day to the ship, highly gratified with the excursion, and deeming themselves amply repaid for all the inconveniences and severe toil they had encountered on their journey.

Automaton.—A mechanician of a little town in Bohemia, says the *Constitutionnel*, has constructed an automaton which imitates perfectly the human voice, particularly the soprano notes. It sings several difficult airs with the greatest accuracy. Shakes, runs, and chromatic scales are all executed with surprising precision. This automaton, in singing, even pronounces certain words, so as to be easily understood.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—M. L. L. R. received.—"One about to emigrate will find further information relating to the Falkland Islands in Nos. 299, 300, 654, 778.—Had we an acre of paper at our command we should omit the 'compliments' referred to by 'An Old Subscriber.'—We are obliged to J. L. (Jersoy).—Instead of 'grumbling for the first time,' would not 'A Subscriber' have acted kindly and wisely had he sent us the useful information?"

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